ZETMAN

MASAKAZU KATSURA STUDIO K2R

桂正和

12

cover design; kobayashi mitsuru (geni a lòide)

YJ ヤンジャン YJC

ZETMAN［ゼットマン］

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桂正和

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YJ ヤンジャン YJC

ZETMAN 12

How to awaken Jin into ZET...?

Professor Shibaki, the man with the answer, suddenly died in suspicious circumstances.

And now the hunt for the key to ZET, the "red rock", begins a bitter contest between Jin and Evol. Which side will Lady Luck smile on...!?

ZETMAN

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STUDIO K2R

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ヤンジャン
YJC

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STUDIO K2R

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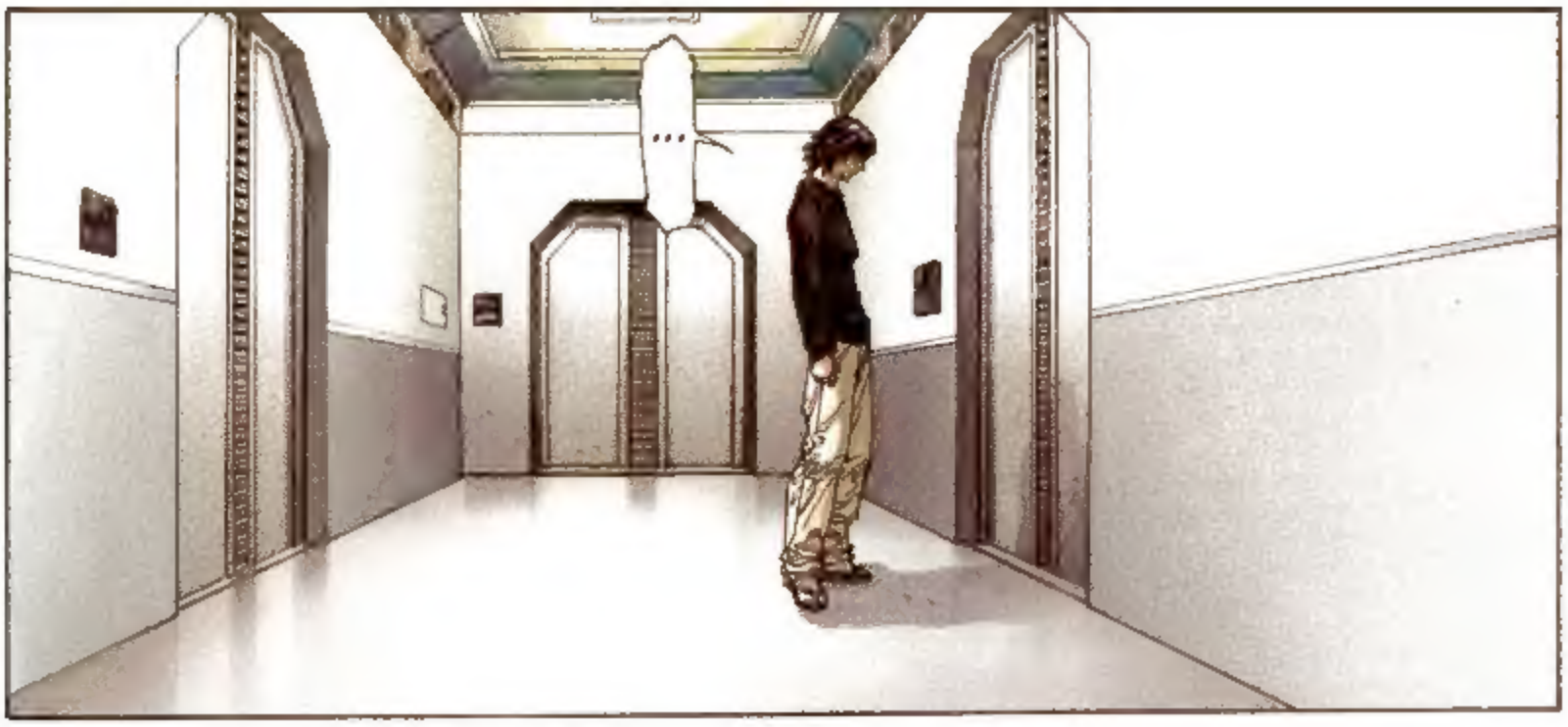
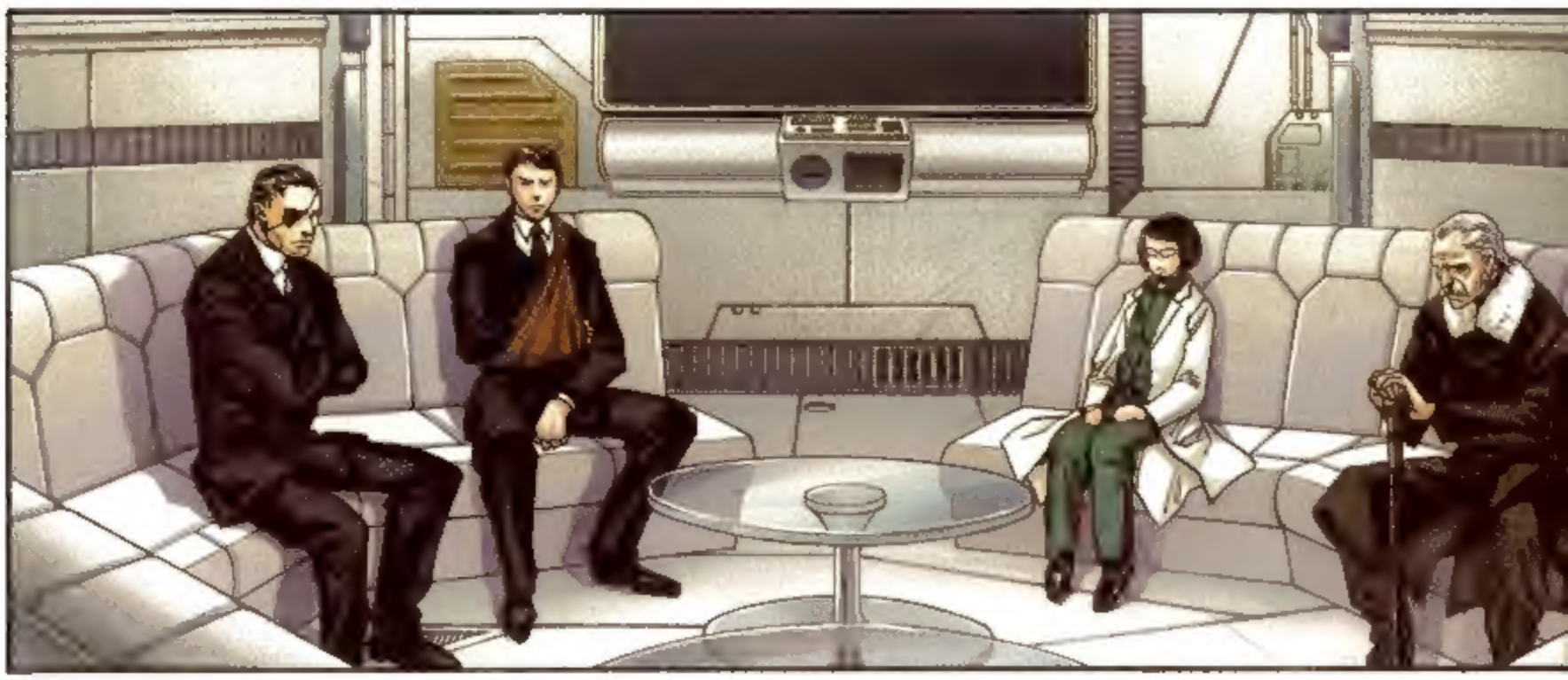
This story is fiction. Any similiarities to people or events, both living and dead, are purely coincidence.


...

HMooo?
I CAN'T
FEEL
HIMooo

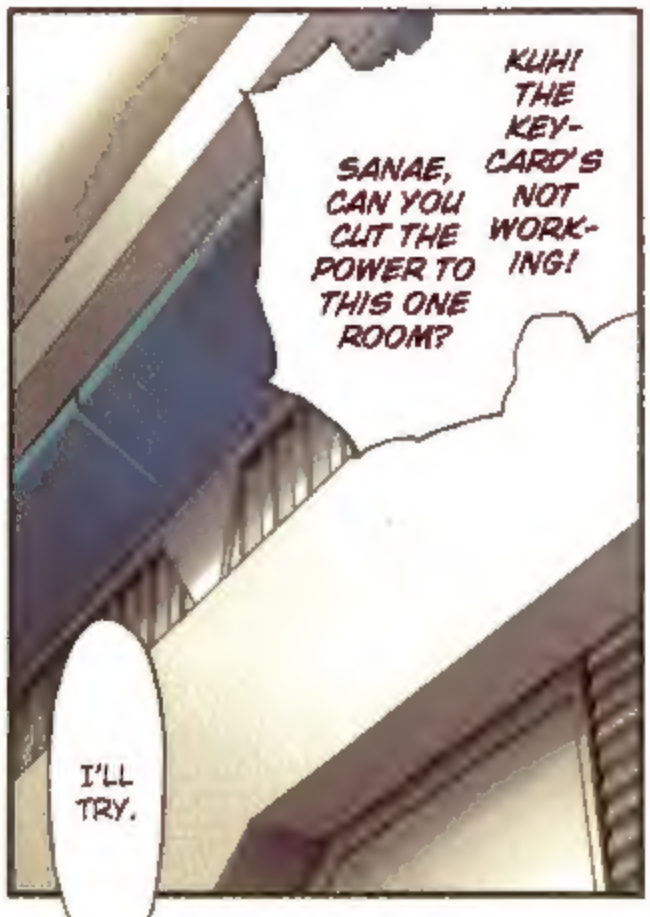
SOME-
THING'S
WEIRD
...
IN
THE OLD
DUDE'S
ROOM.

SFX: RUUU



Chapter 132
(REPULSIVE MACHINE)

SFX: BUBU



IM-
POSSI-
BLE!

!

SFX: BAH

COVER
YOUR
EARS!

SFX: GAAN

SFX: DOSAH SFX: BIKU

SFX: AAAAAAAGH

SFX: GU GU GU GU GU

SFX: AAAAAAGH

SFX: GU GU GU

JIN.

GIVE UP.

TO THINK THEY DROVE YOU THIS FAR...

SHIBAKI...

BUT THE REASON HE CAME HERE ISN'T LOST TO US.

SFX: AAAAAAGH

SFX: GU GU

GIVE UP ON WHAT?

LIKE FUCK... I'D GIVE UP!
THIS IS A LIFE.

SFX SU

ZET.

YOU
...
MUST
BECOME
ZET.

SFX: ZAH
...

AS I'M FAR FROM INNOCENT...

JIN, COME WITH ME...
I'M GOING. NOTHING TO STAY FOR NOW, IS THERE?

TIME TO BRING OUT THAT REPULSIVE MACHINE FOR PEEKING INSIDE PEOPLE'S HEADS, HUH?

HMPH.

I HAD THIS PREPARED.

BUT HIS DEATH WON'T AFFECT US.
IT'S A COLD THING TO SAY,
PFF... YES. USING THIS BRINGS US A GUARANTEE.
WHEN SHIBAKI PANICKED, I WAS PLANNING TO USE IT ON HIM ONCE HE'D CALMED DOWN, HOWEVER...

WILL ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,

IS THIS ALL A TRAP? USING THIS TO VIEW SHIBAKI'S EXPERIENCES...

DID THE EVOL MARK HIM SOMEHOW? HOW DID HE ESCAPE?

THE ETERNAL MYSTERY OF ZET'S AWAKENING WILL FINALLY BE REVEALED.

?

CHAIRMAAN...

COULD YOU... COME HERE A MI-NUTE?

SHE'S SAYING SOME-THING WEIRD.

WHAT IS IT?
CHAIR-MAAAN.
KILL HIM-SELF
PAPA DIDN'T KILL HIM-SELF

PAPA DIDN'T ... KILL HIMSELF ... ...
KILL HIM-SELF...
PAPA DIDN'T KILL HIMSELF.

ZETMAN

#[Evil_Genius]@irc.irchighway.net
http://evil-genius.us
http://evil-genius.us/forums

Chapter 133
(KEY ITEM)

KILL
PAPA
HIM-SELF
DIDN'T
PAPA DIDN'T
HIM-SELF
KILL

SHI-BAKI I SUP-POSE.

DON'T TELL ME PAPA IS...

!

AN IN-VISIBLE INTRU-DER!

GETTING IN WAS REAL SIMPLE, ME BEING LIKE THIS AND ALL.

I'D BEEN WAITING IN YOUR HOUSE FOR MOOONTHS.

THE CHAME-LEON!

I CAN'T SENSE ANY PLAYERS NEARBY...

NO, WAIT! I DON'T THINK THE CHAMELEON'S HERE.

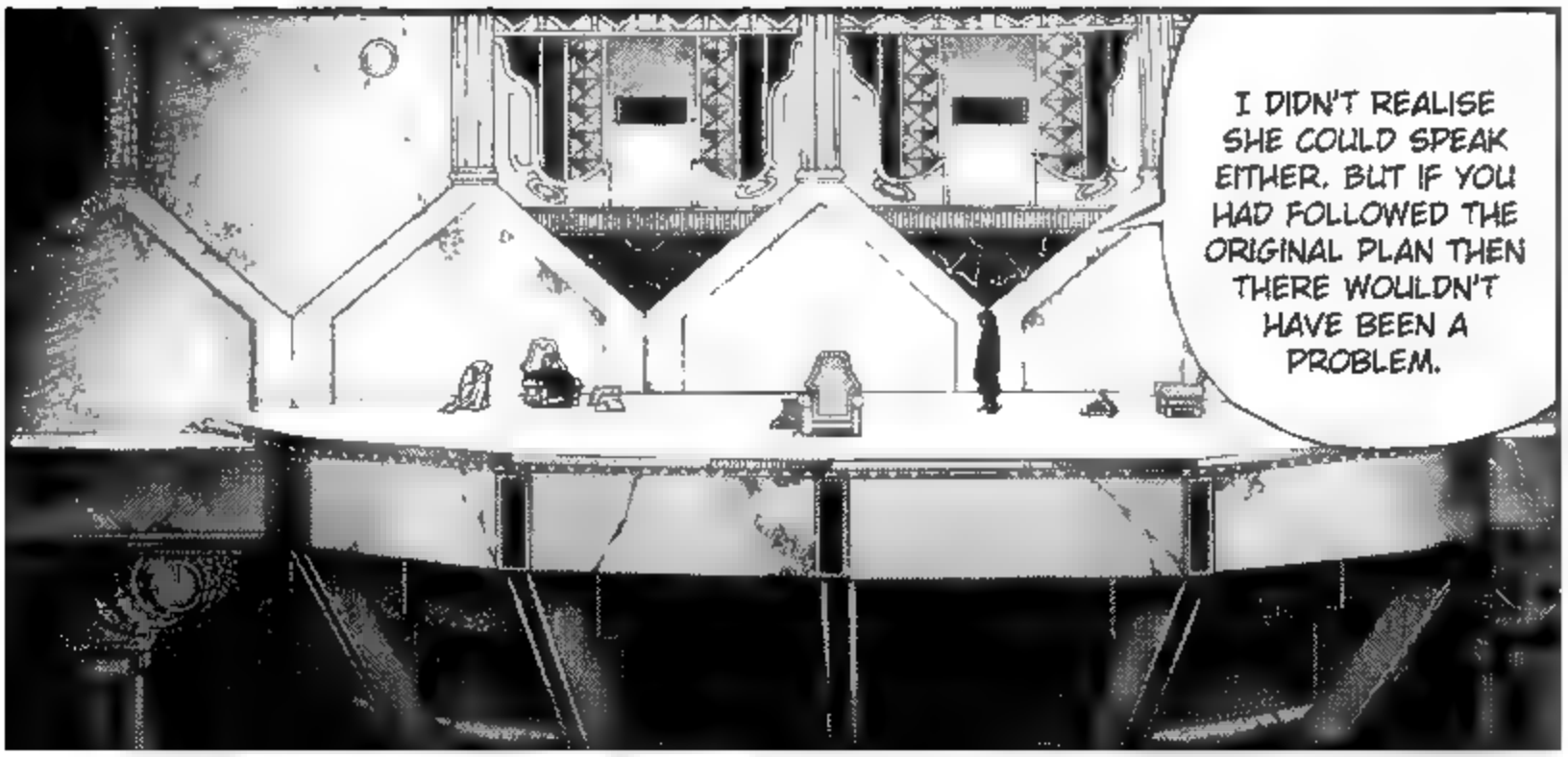
...

...NOPE.

CAN YOU SENSE ANYTHING ELSE?

SO THAT JUST LEAVES SUICIDE

OH? YOU LOOK ANGRY. IF SOMETHING HAS UPSET YOU THEN I'LL HEAR YOU OUT.
THAT'S A SURPRISE. I DIDN'T KNOW SHE COULD TALK.


I DIDN'T REALISE SHE COULD SPEAK EITHER. BUT IF YOU HAD FOLLOWED THE ORIGINAL PLAN THEN THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM.

I AM TOTALLY UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND YOUR REASONING FOR KILLING SHIBAKI AT THIS POINT. I REQUEST AN EXPLANATION.

I THOUGHT THE PLAN WAS TO SEND SHIBAKI TO JIN TO ASK HIM DIRECTLY ABOUT THE KEY ITEM FOR AWAKENING ZET.

THERE WAS SOME DOUBT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PASS ON THE INFORMATION CORRECTLY.

...

SOMEBODY BROKE SHIBAKI MENTALLY.

IN WHICH CASE, THINGS'D PROGRESS FASTER IF SHIBAKI WAS DEAD, RIGHT?

THEY'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE DEVICES TOO, YOU KNOW.

SO IT'D BE BETTER TO GET THEM TO PEEK INSIDE HIS HEAD DIRECTLY.

JUST LIKE WE DID.

SEE?

...

BUT HUMAN SOCIETY IS PRETTY DISEASED, ISN'T IT?

IF YOU'VE GOT THE CASH THEN YOU CAN JUST BUY ONE OF THOSE THINGS.

...

...

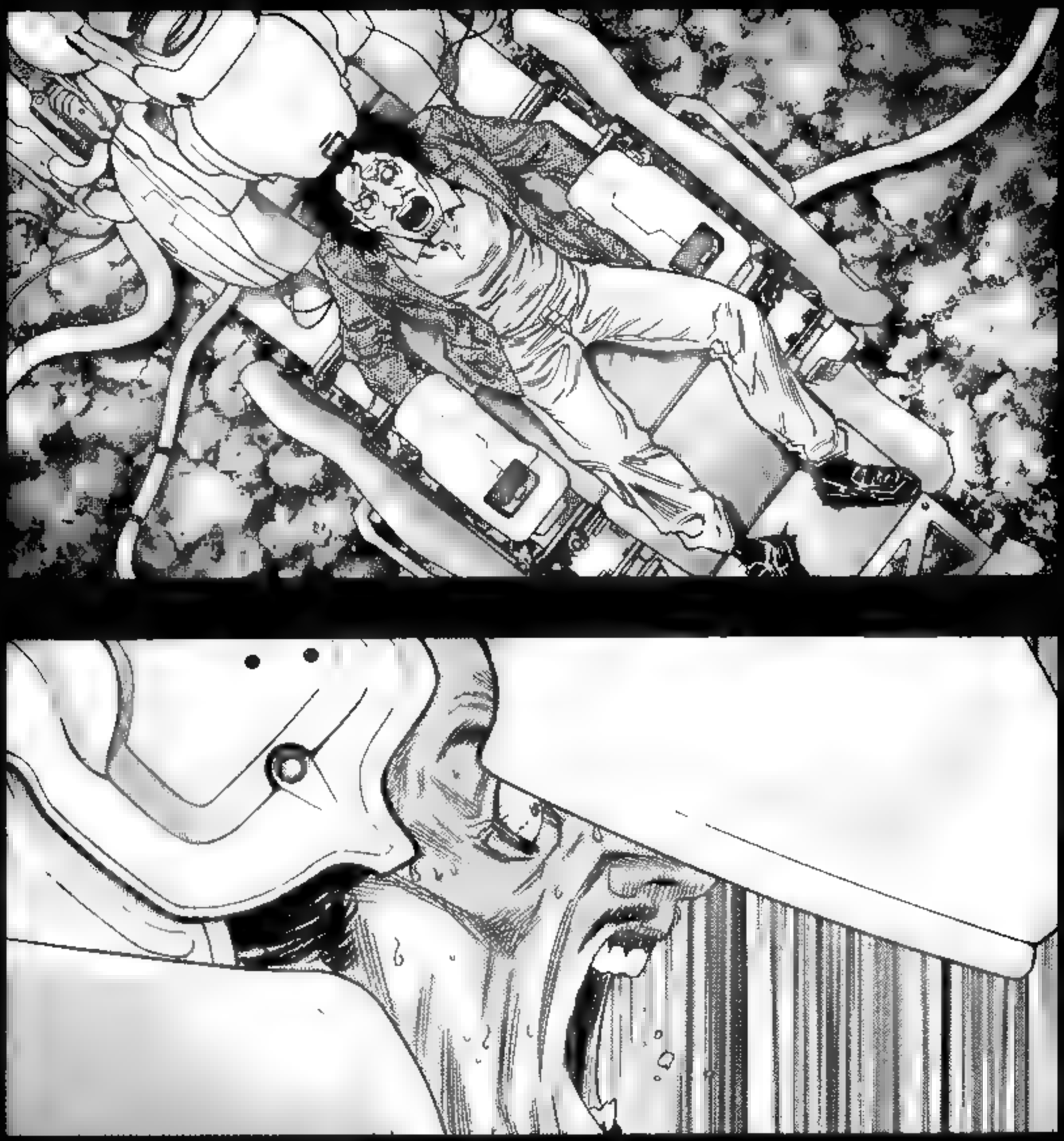
PASS.

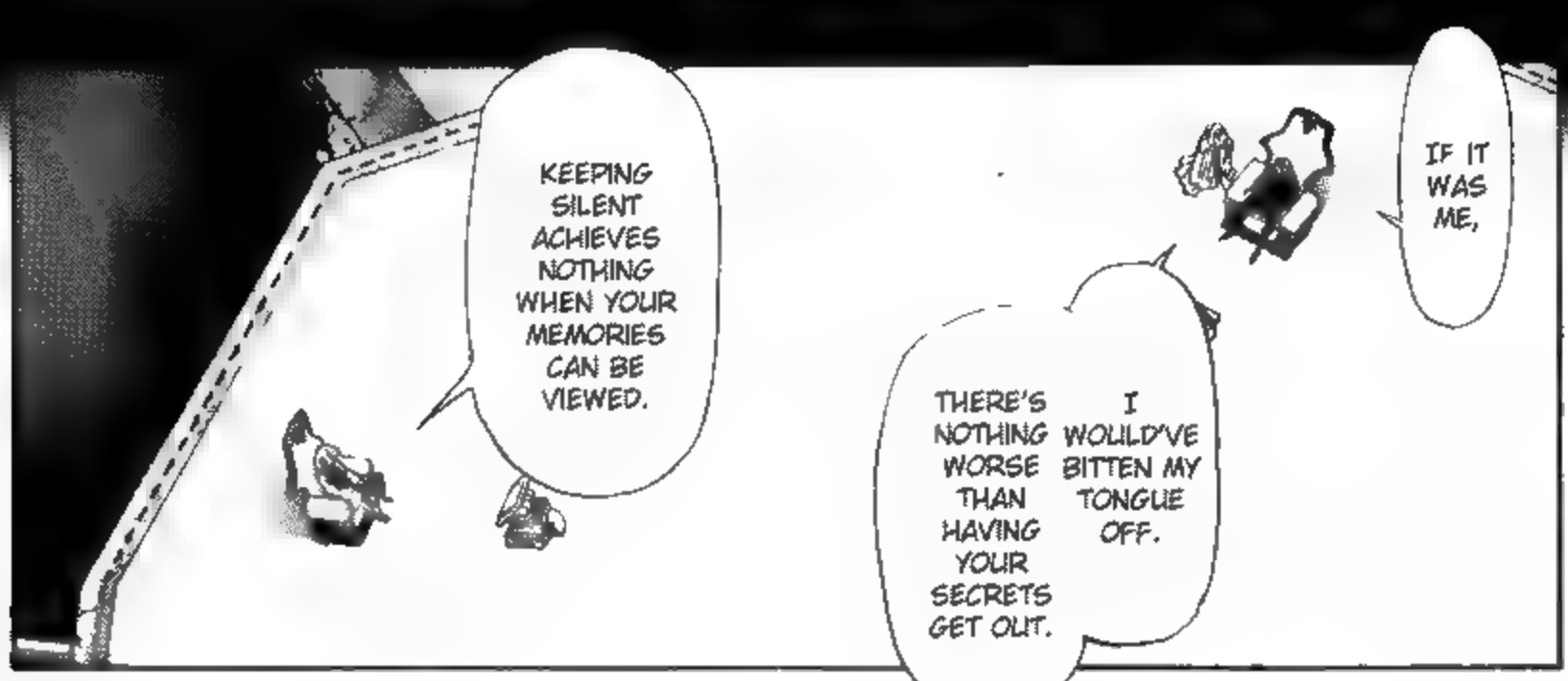
WHICHEVER WAY, IT'S A REAL NASTY PIECE OF WORK. I MEAN, SHIBAKI REALLY HATED IT...

50 MILLION, 50 MILLION! IS THAT CHEAP OR EXPENSIVE?

HOW MUCH D'YOU THINK THEY CHARGE?

BUT THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, I WISH THEY'D GONE ON SALE SOONER. WE COULD HAVE SAVED OURSELVES ALL THAT WASTEFUL TRIAL AND ERROR.




KEEPING SILENT ACHIEVES NOTHING WHEN YOUR MEMORIES CAN BE VIEWED.
IF IT WAS ME,
I WOULD'VE BITTEN MY TONGUE OFF.
THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN HAVING YOUR SECRETS GET OUT.

HUMANS HAVE BEEN DOING THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING.

TECHNOLOGY INVENTED FOR SINISTER STUFF ALWAYS GETS CLEANED UP TO TURN A PROFIT.

I'M TOLD THEY'RE SOLD AS "SPECIALIST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT" WITH JUST 9% OF THEIR POTENTIAL FEATURES ENABLED.

THAT REMINDS ME. THEY'RE NOT ACTUALLY SELLING THE FULL-SPEC MACHINES. IT SEEMS LIKE YOU CAN'T USE THEM FOR MEMORY MANIPULATION AND RISKY STUFF LIKE THAT.

I UNDERSTAND HUMANS BETTER THAN YOU AND I'VE THOUGHT THINGS THROUGH PRETTY DEEPLY SO...

AH, SORRY, SORRY. BASICALLY,

I... DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD TALK ABOUT THAT SOME OTHER TIME?

I'D LIKE YOU TO STEP DOWN FROM THIS OPERATION.

I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE.

EVERY SINGLE ACTION I TAKE.

QUIT CRITICISING ...

BUT I SHALL NOW REPORT AND REQUEST THE BOSS' SUPPORT.

YES, THAT'S TRUE.

..

HEY! YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ASK THAT!

YOU ALLOWED SHIBAKI TO HEAR OF OUR GREAT SCHEME TO RULE THE HUMANS.

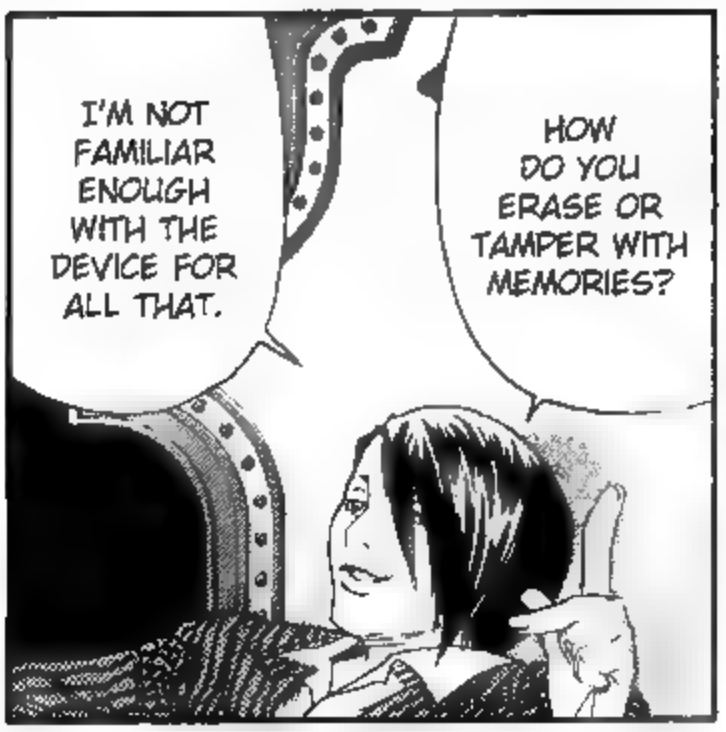
YOU HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED A GRAVE SIN.

...

I PLANNED THIS OPERATION! I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO INTERFERE!

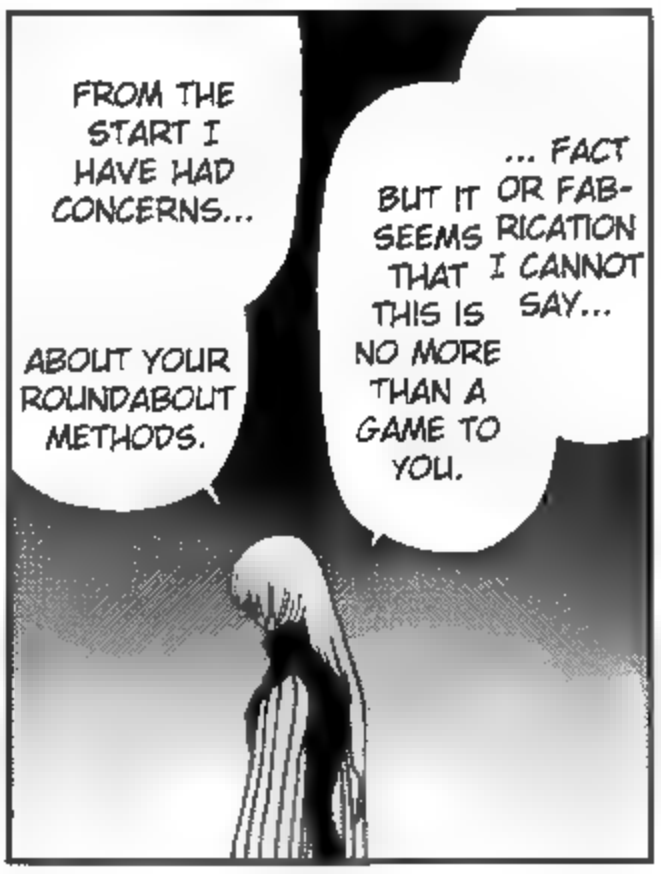
BULL-SHIT!

SOMETIMES YOU JUST GET OVER-HEARD, YOU KNOW?


I'M NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE DEVICE FOR ALL THAT.
HOW DO YOU ERASE OR TAMPER WITH MEMORIES?

AND NOT JUST THAT ONE. WHY WERE ALL HIS MEMORIES OF OUR ORGANI-SATION LEFT INTACT?
THEN WHY WASN'T THAT MEMORY ERASED?

WHY SHOULD WE GO TO THE TROUBLE OF INFORMING THEM?
JIN AND COMPANY ARE CURRENTLY UNAWARE OF THE KEY ITEM FOR ZET'S AWAKENING.


FROM THE START I HAVE HAD CONCERNS...
ABOUT YOUR ROUNDABOUT METHODS.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS NO MORE THAN A GAME TO YOU.
... FACT OR FAB-RICATION I CANNOT SAY...

THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEM TO KNOW. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS TO CAPTURE JIN AND PROBE HIM WITH THE DEVICE!

ALL WE NEED IS HIS BRAIN!

THEN WE SHOULD ASSASSI-NATE HIM!

THERE'S LESS RISK IF WE USE THEM.

IT'D NEVER WORK OUT WITH JIN HOW YOU'D THINK.

AND THAT'S WHY I SAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM.

KILLING JIN FOR NO REASON WOULD BE A SHOCKING WASTE OF TALENT.

YOU DUMBASS! AND WHAT IF THE RED STONE WAS LOST SOMEWHERE IN HIS DIFFICULT PAST? WHAT THEN?

WOULD YOU SEARCH THE WHOLE WORLD FOR THE THING? WE'D END UP HAVING TO MAKE A NEW ONE!

...

THIS IS NOT A GAME BEING PLAYED FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT. I TRUST THE REST OF THE OPERATION WILL PROCEED ACCORDING TO PLAN.

... ALLOW ME A CONFIRMATION.

ANYWAY, WE HAVE STEALTH UNITS ON STANDBY IN EVERY SUSPICIOUS LOCATION. IF THE RED STONE STILL EXISTS,

WE'RE SURE TO GET TO IT BEFORE THEY DO. SO CALM DOWN ALREADY.

THE PEOPLE IN THAT RESEARCH FACILITY, *JIN INCLUDED*,

IF WE SHOULD ACQUIRE THE RED STONE,

HMPH.

MUST BE ERADICATED WITHOUT TRACE.

AND EVERYONE CONNECTED TO THE STONE'S LOCATION,

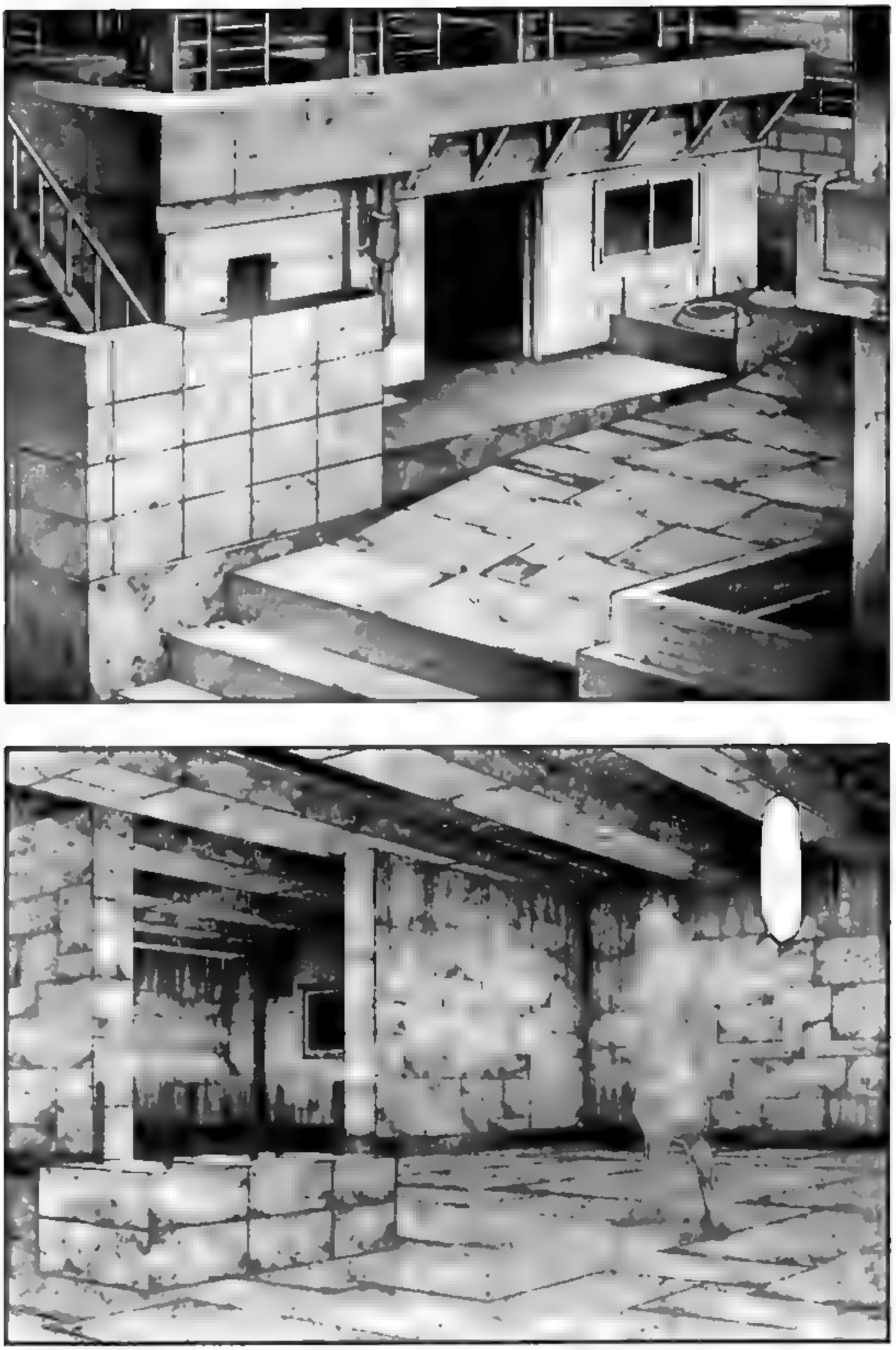
TOMOR-ROW, FOR SURE.

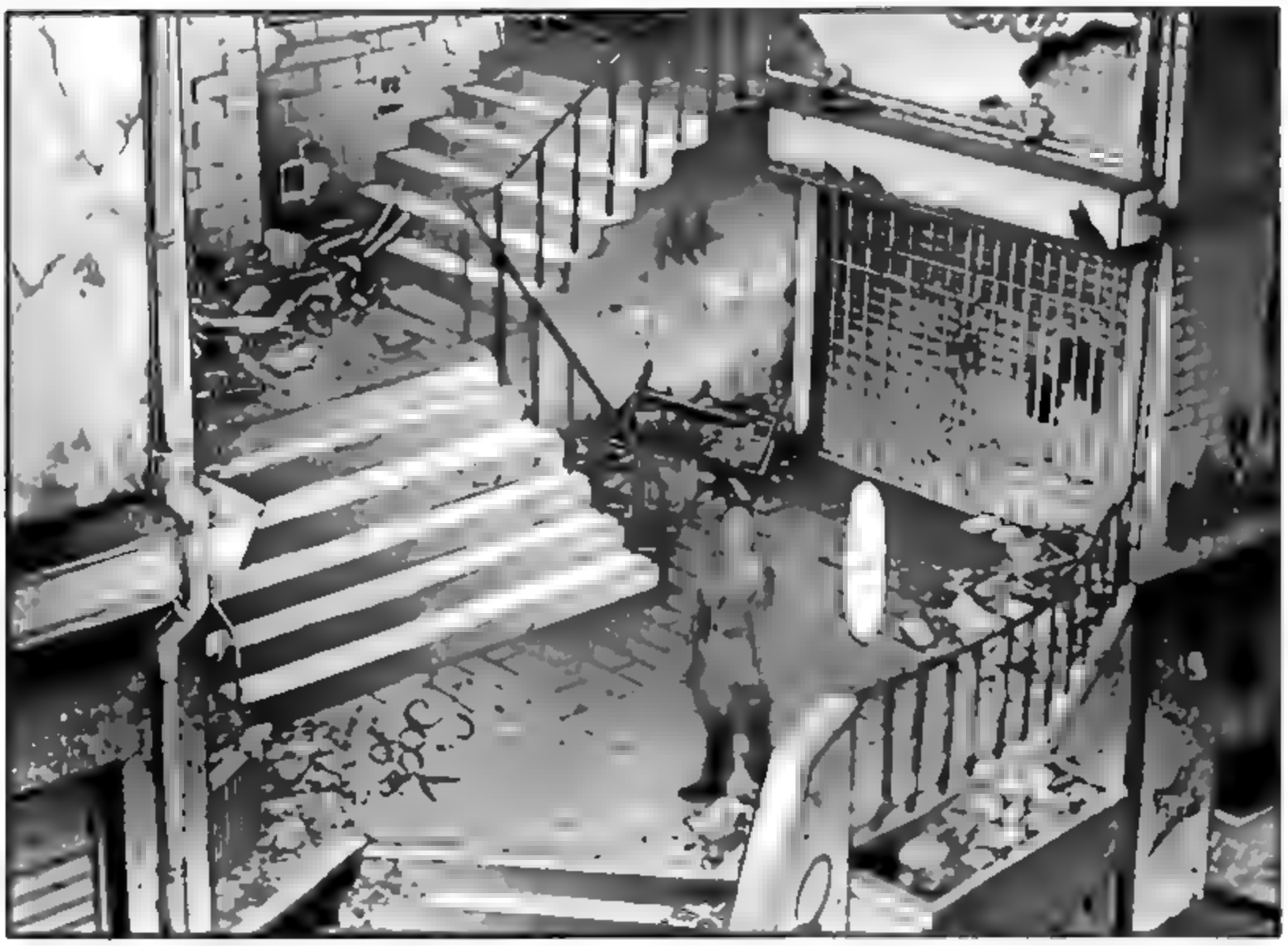
EVERY TIME I TRY GIVING IT BACK IT GOES WRONG ...

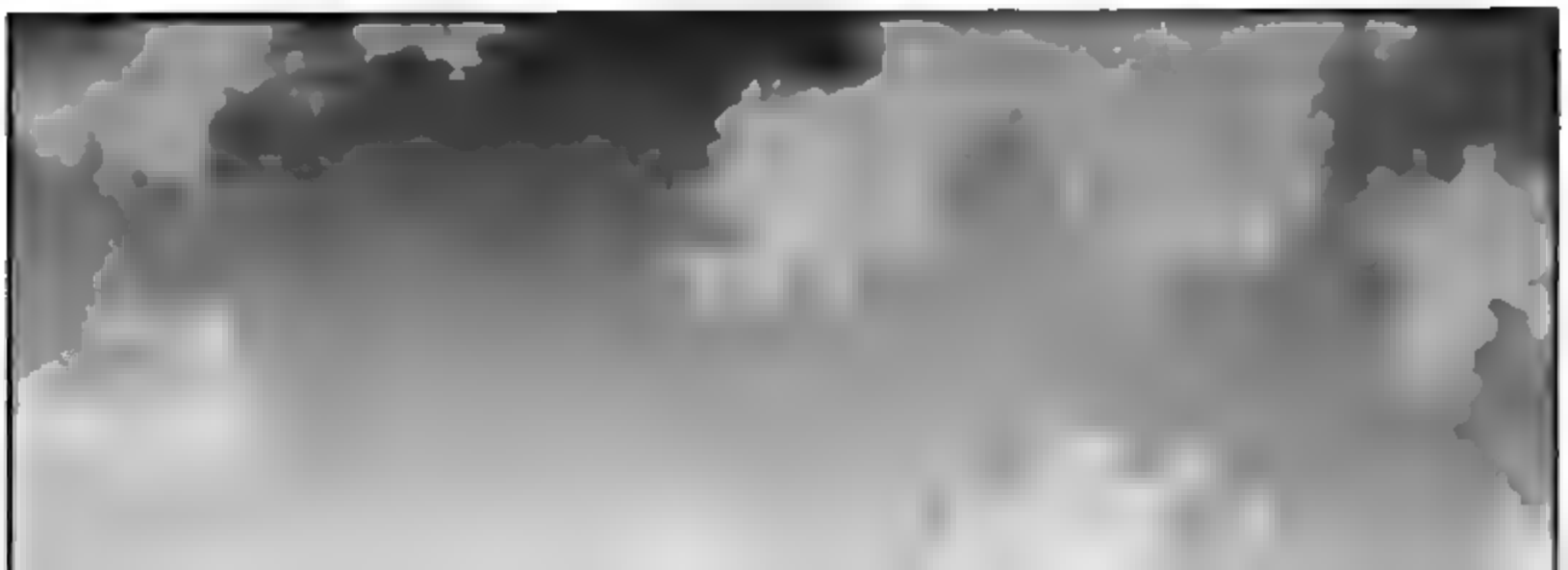
Hrmm

PHEW.

SFX: ZA ZA ZA







ZETMAN

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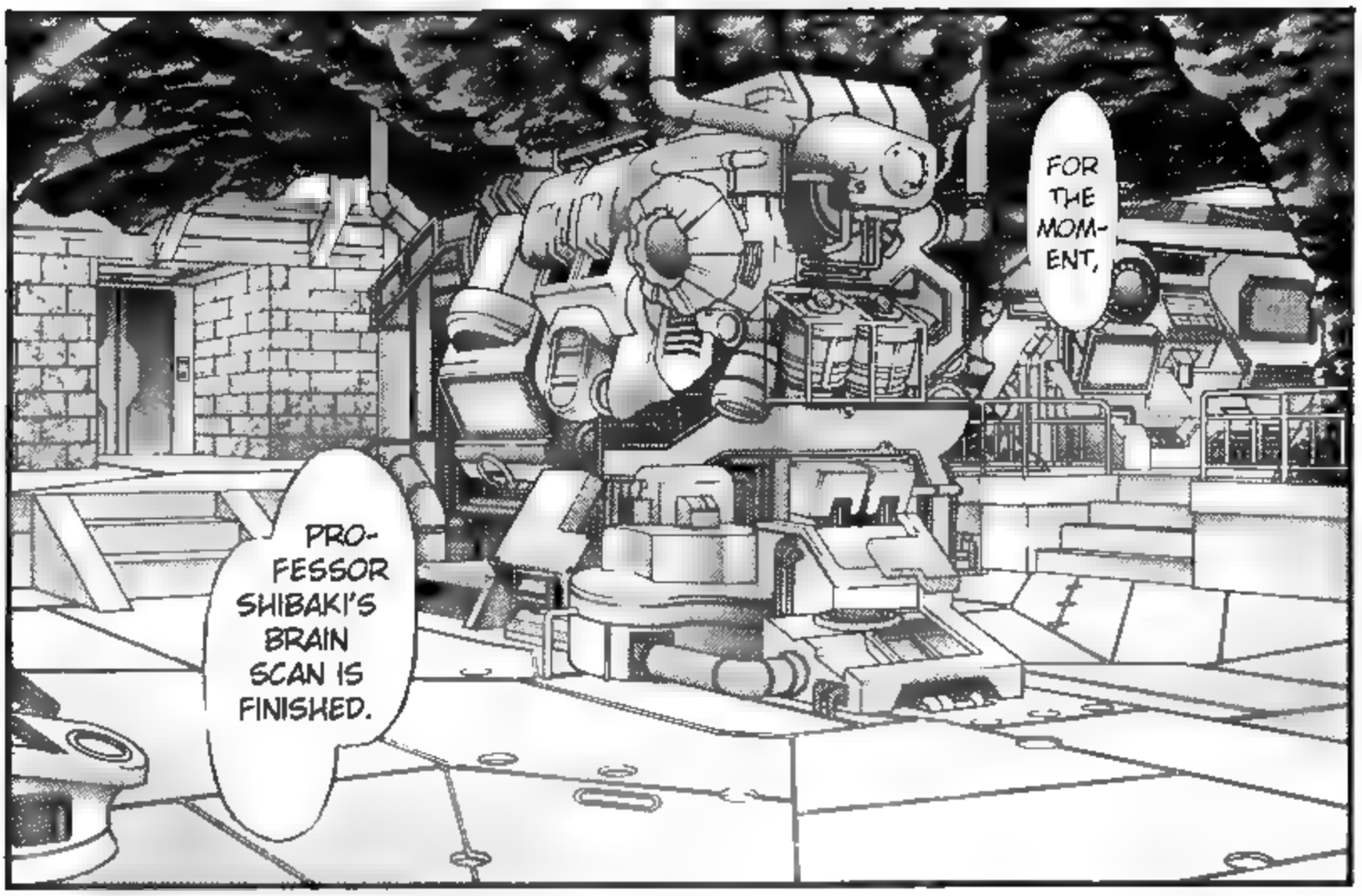
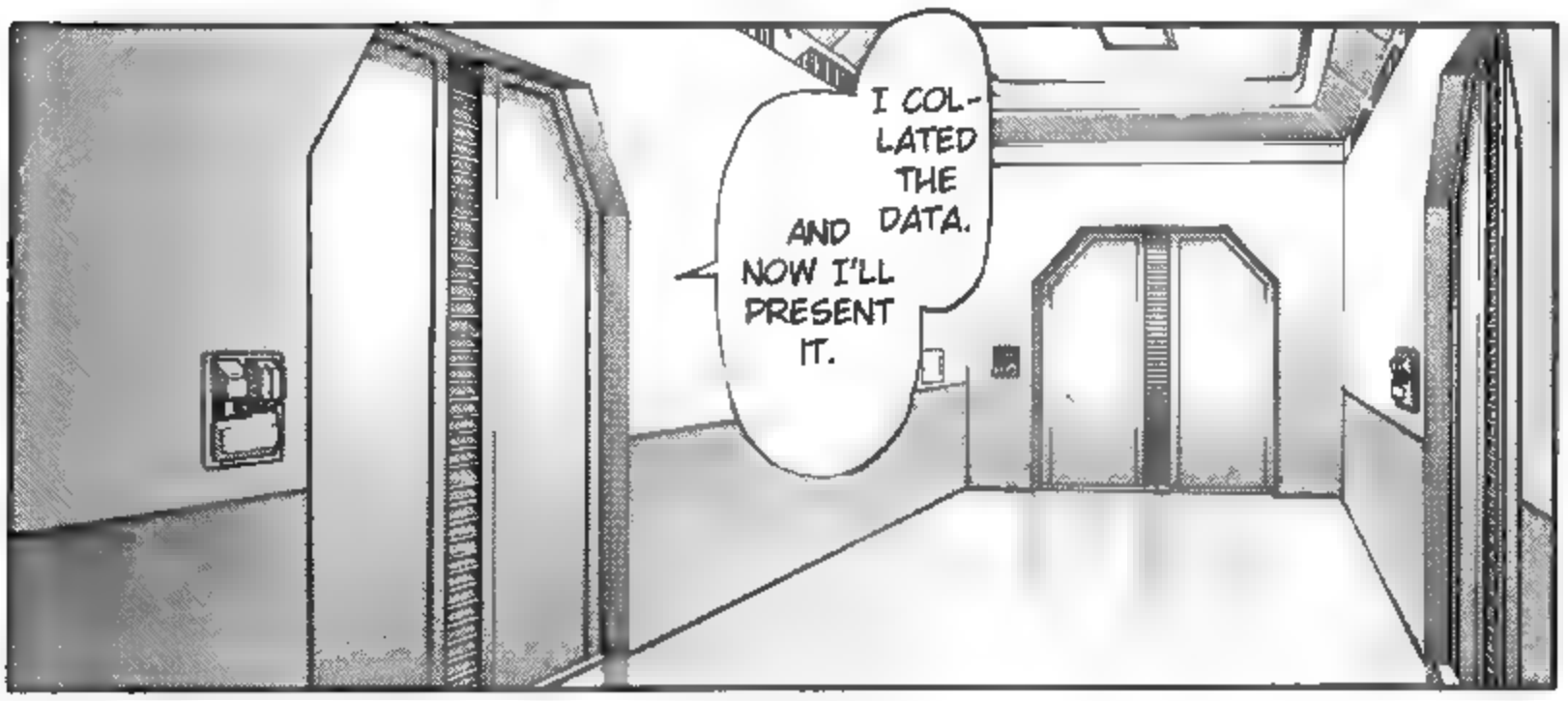
Chapter 134
(EVOL, THE ORGANISATION)





THIS IS THE EVOL HIDEOUT.

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE USING THE RUINS OF THE UNDERGROUND BATTLE ARENA THE PLAYERS ORIGINALLY ESCAPED FROM.

SINCE WHEN?

LET'S SEE...

17 YEARS AGO. SINCE RIGHT AFTER PROF SHIBAKI WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE.

BUT... THE ORGANISATION HADN'T YET BEEN FOUNDED AT THAT TIME.

PROF SHIBAKI AND A FEW OTHER SCIENTISTS TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME WERE BEING HELD BY JUST TWO OF THE ORIGINAL ESCAPED PLAYERS.

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT...

WHEN I TOOK JIN THERE NOTHING SEEMED OUT OF THE ORDINARY ...

BUT YOU'RE TELLING ME THEY WERE ALREADY THERE...

BUT ODDLY, PROF SHIBAKI ONLY EVER SAW TWO OF THEM.

THE POINT OF INTEREST HERE IS THE THREE CHAIRS THAT ARE VISIBLE. APPARENTLY THIS IS THE MEETING PLACE FOR EVOL'S EXECUTIVES.

THIS ONE IS SOUYA INZEN.

HERE THEY ARE. THIS ONE IS SEIJI HAITANI.

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY TOUGH.

SFX: FUFUFU

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, ZET HASN'T FOUGHT A G3 YET.

G IS FOR GENERATION, SO THEY'RE FROM THE THIRD GENERATION.

THEY'RE BOTH THE LATEST MODEL PLAYERS, G3.

...

FOR WHICH REASON, NEXT I'LL EXPLAIN ABOUT PLAYER EVOLUTION.

SFX: PATAN

THE G1'S BORN FROM "CRACKED BOX THEORY" AND BASED ON MODIFIED FAKE HUMANS FUSED WITH ANIMAL DNA WERE SIMPLE CREATIONS.

FAKE HUMANS WERE BORN AS AN OFF-SHOOT OF PROF KIRISHIMA'S NET RESEARCH. THE MONSTERS THEY WERE TRANS-FORMED INTO WERE THE FIRST GEN-ERATION, OR G1 AS THEY'RE KNOWN.

G 1

G 2

G 3

BY FUSING THEM WITH NON-HUMAN GENETIC MATERIAL IN SOLUTION, THEY BECAME PRIMITIVE BEINGS WHICH COULD APPEAR HUMAN IN ADDITION TO THEIR REVERTED FORMS.

supplement organism

WHEN THESE G1'S WERE ENHANCED FROM FAKE HUMANS...

SO RATHER THAN JUST BEING BUILT FOR STRENGTH THEY WERE MADE TO BE FLASHY. THEY HAD SPECIAL POWERS LIKE BREATHING FIRE OR SPITTING POISON AND VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS LIKE HORNS OR SIX ARMS.

fake human × supplement organism

+ α

THE BASIC PREMISE BACK THEN WAS THAT THEY WOULD BE SHOWN TO PEOPLE,

THE G1'S WERE CREATED FOR THE ARENA BUT THE PERCENTAGE OF SUCCESSFUL BIRTHS WAS LOW, SO THEY DID ALL THEY COULD TO ENHANCE THEM.

G2 PLAYER

THOSE WERE THE G2'S.

UM, HANG ON A SEC.

WHAT ABOUT THE ONE I MET 4-5 YEARS BACK AT THE SCENE OF THAT FIRE? WAS HE A G2?

THE BEAST-MAN BEFORE THAT TOO.

THOSE THREE BROTHERS THAT JIN FOUGHT RECENTLY, THE SEA CREATURES, THEY WERE PROBABLY G2'S.

THE FIRST ONE YOU EVER FOUGHT, THE CHAMELEON, WAS DEFINITELY A G1.

HE'S PROBABLY ONE OF THE ONES THAT ESCAPED SINCE HE LOOKS A BIT DEFECTIVE. THE SKINHEAD IS A GIVE AWAY.

AH, THIS ONE. HMM. HE HAD A FIRE-BREATHING MOTIF, DIDN'T HE? G2 THEN, I GUESS.

THE FUCK?!

MY NAME IS JIN.

NOT ZET.

...

ZET, I BACKED UP ALL THE DATA FROM THE TIME YOUR BRAIN WAS SCANNED. THAT'S ONE OF THE RESOURCES I SEARCHED.

HALF OF IT'S NOT THAT INTERESTING SO I SPLIT THAT OUT OF COURSE.

OH, SORRY. TOUCHY ABOUT THAT ONE? OR ARE YOU WONDERING HOW I KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS...?

OK, BACK TO THE PRESENTATION.

...

SHE... HE MEANT MORE THAN THAT...

RUDE OF ME. I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE.

SFX: KUI

HE IS ADDRESSED AS "BOSS" OR EVEN "MASTER".

BOSS

EXECUTIVE

PLAYER

AND THEIRS IS ONE OF THE 13 PLAYERS WHO ESCAPED THE ARENA. HE SEEMS TO STILL BE THE TOP DOG EVEN NOW.

SO... EVERY ORGANISATION NEEDS A LEADER ...

HE'S EITHER A G1 OR A G2.

INTERESTING THAT HE'S STILL THE BOSS EVEN THOUGH THE PLAYERS ARE NOW IN THEIR THIRD GENERATION.

BOSS

THERE WERE NO IMAGES OF HIM IN HIS BRAIN.

IT APPEARS THAT PROF SHIBAKI NEVER SAW HIM.

ARE THEY GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR CREATING THEM? COULD THEY BE KINDER THAN HUMANS, PERHAPS?

WELL, WHICHEVER HE IS, HE HAS G3 UNDERLINGS WHO ARE ACTUALLY MORE POWERFUL THAN HIM. I'M REALLY QUITE INTRIGUED ABOUT THEIR RELATION-SHIP.

SO HE MUST BE A G2.

I CAN'T SEE HIM BEING A G1.

IN WHICH CASE THE G3'S WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH HIM.

APPARENTLY THIS GUY CAN PREVENT PLAYERS FROM REVERTING USING A POWER LIKE TELEKI-NESIS.

HE DIDN'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT HE'D HEARD RUMOURS.

I HAD MY DOUBTS SO I ASKED PROF SHIBAKI'S BRAIN.

NOW'S THE TIME IF WE WANNA TAKE 'EM DOWN.

BUT IT MEANS THE ORGANI-SATION'S NOT STABLE YET.

GOT IT. I'M CON-VINCED.

THAT'S WHY THEY WANT ME COMPLETE, TO BE THEIR KARISMA.

HUH?

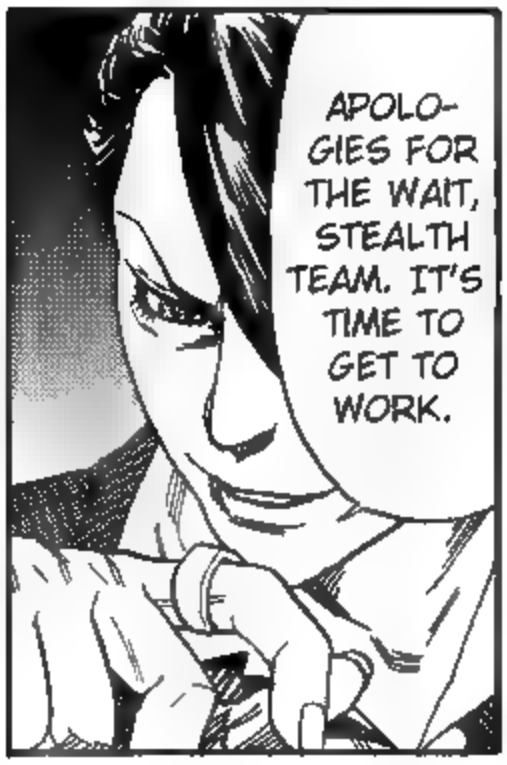
INCRED-
IBLE! THAT
WAS UNEX-
PECTEDLY
POSITIVE.

...

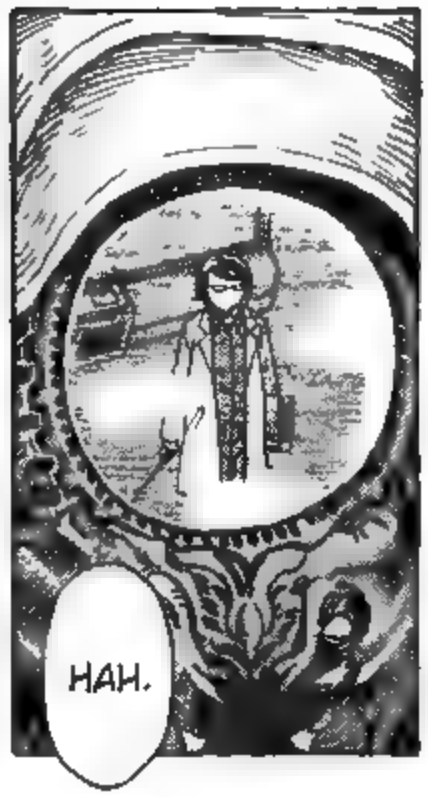
WHICH MEANS
YOU'RE WITH
US ON THE
AWAKENING I
ASSUME?
IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO BREAK
INTO THEIR
BASE
WITHOUT
BECOMING
THE TRUE
ZET.

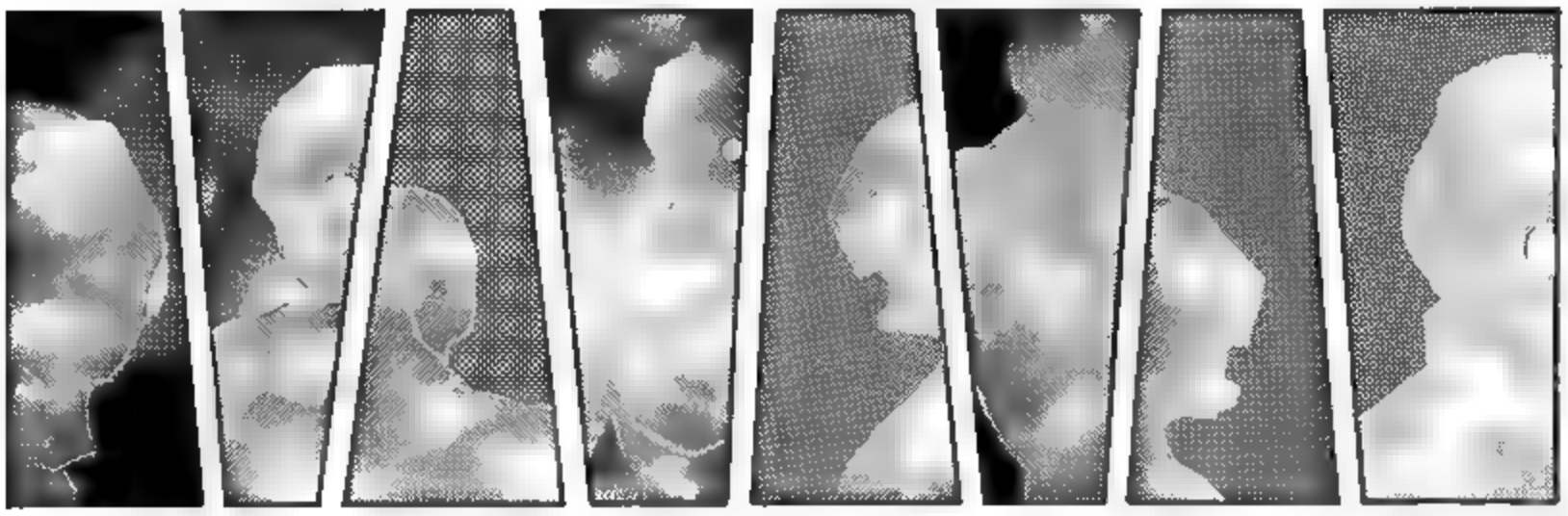
ISN'T IT
ABOUT TIME
YOU TOLD
US THE
SECRET OF
THE AWAK-
ENING?

BUT I
HAVEN'T
TOLD YOU
ABOUT THE
G3'S YET.
ARE YOU
SURE?
HM?

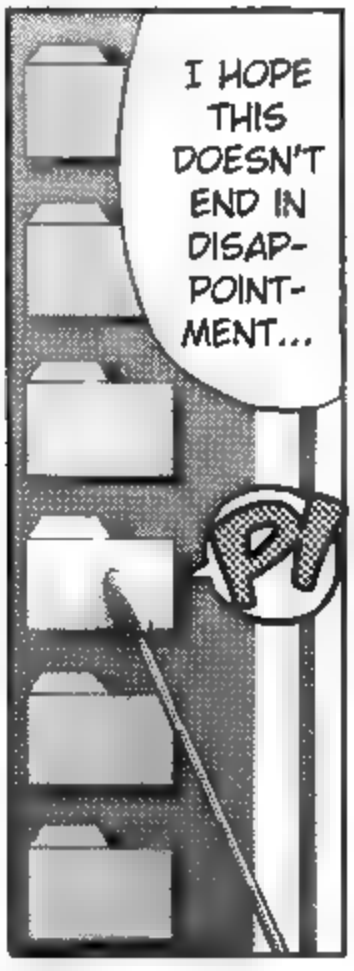

APOLO-
GIES FOR
THE WAIT,
STEALTH
TEAM. IT'S
TIME TO
GET TO
WORK.

NICELY
CUT IN.

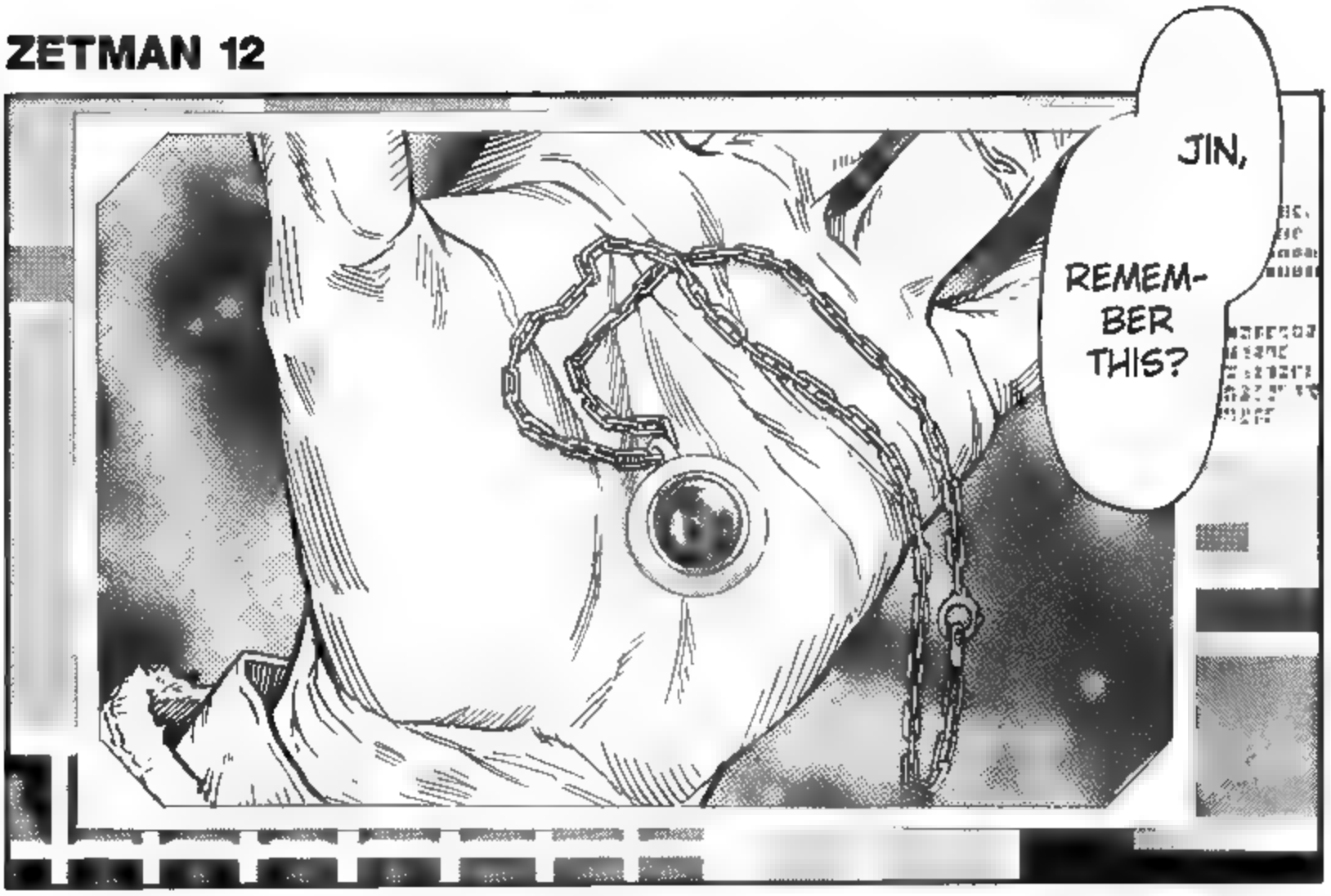

HAH.



HERE.
THIS.


I HOPE
THIS
DOESN'T
END IN
DISAP-
POINT-
MENT...
PI

BUT
DON'T
BLAME
ME IF
IT'S CON-
FUSING.
ALRIGHT,
I'LL
EXPLAIN
THAT
FIRST.


JIN,
REMEM-
BER
THIS?

...
WELL?

SFX: NYA

ZETMAN

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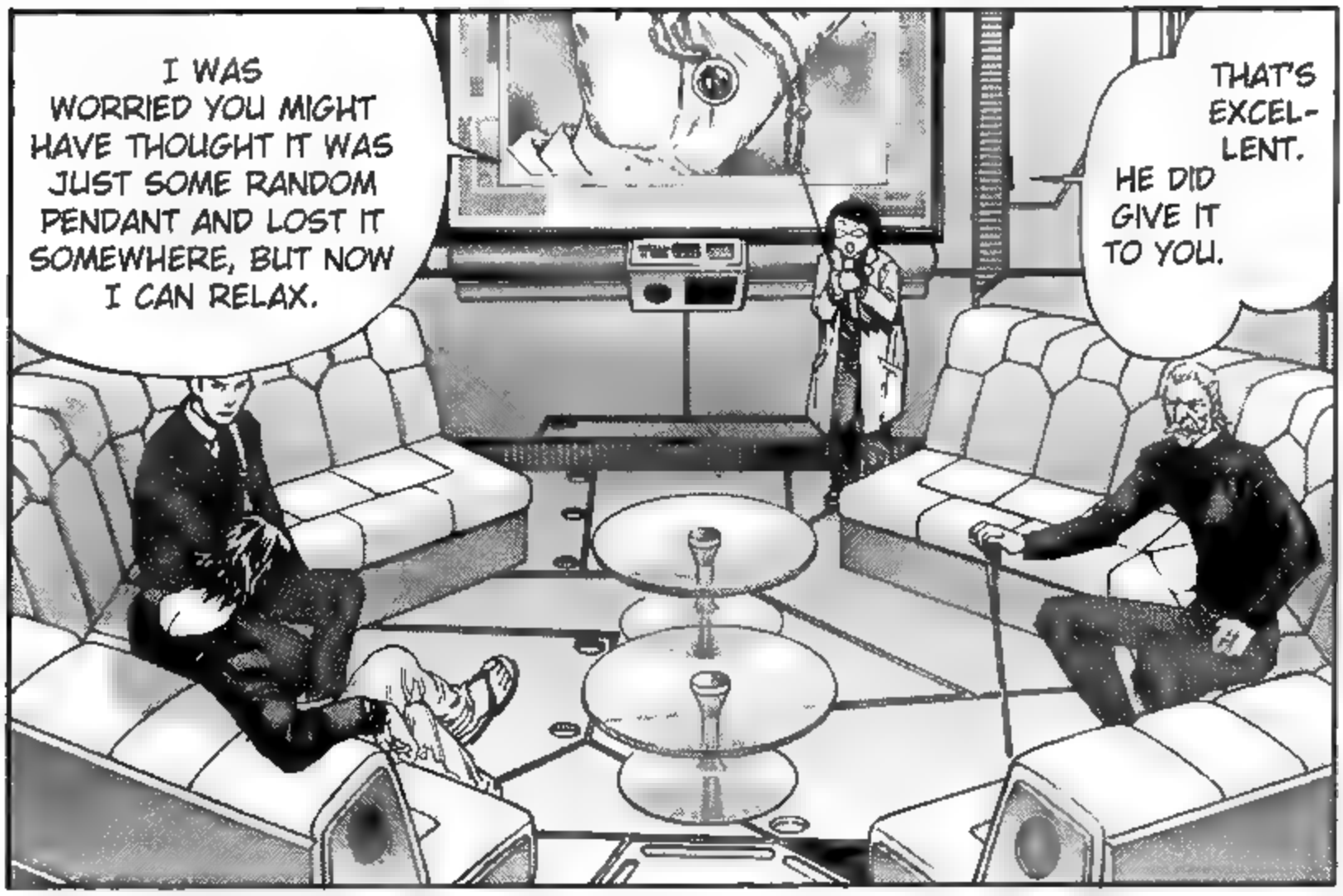
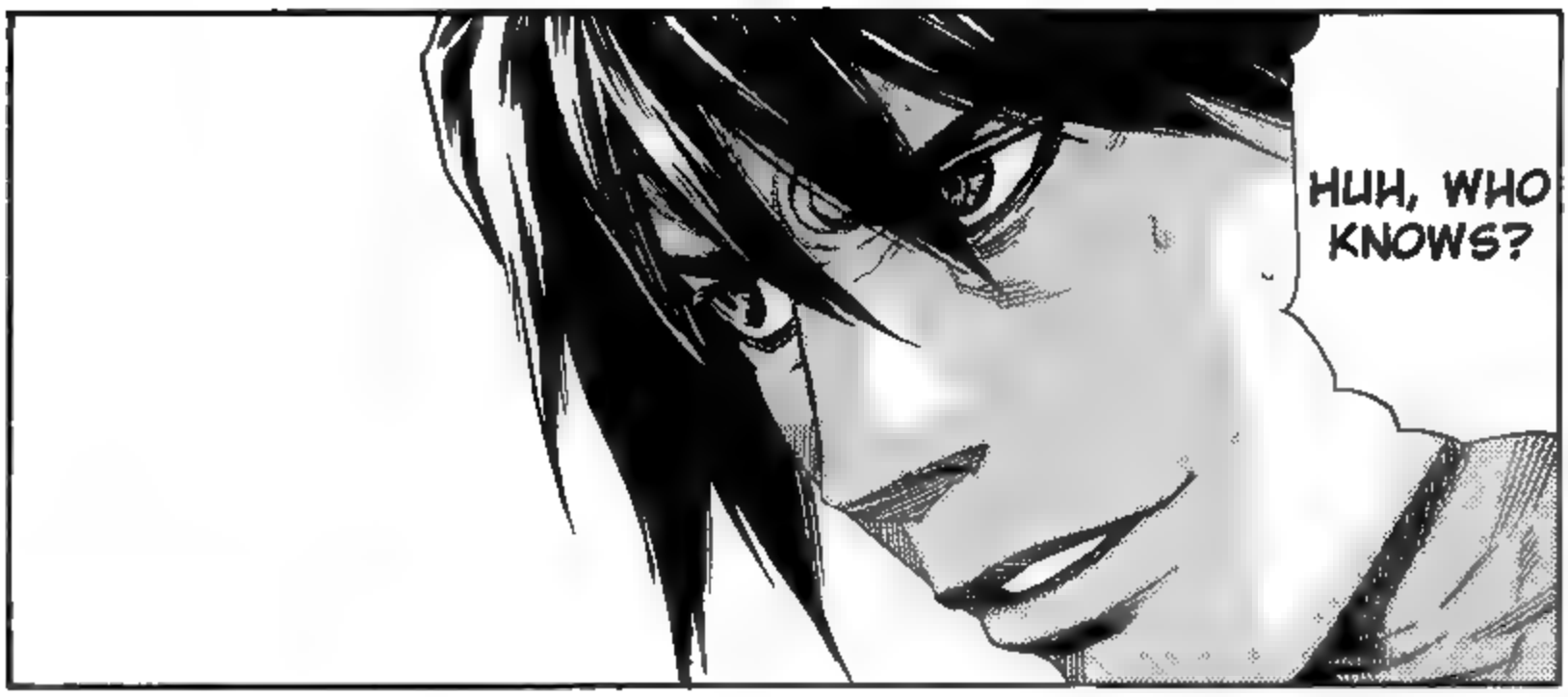
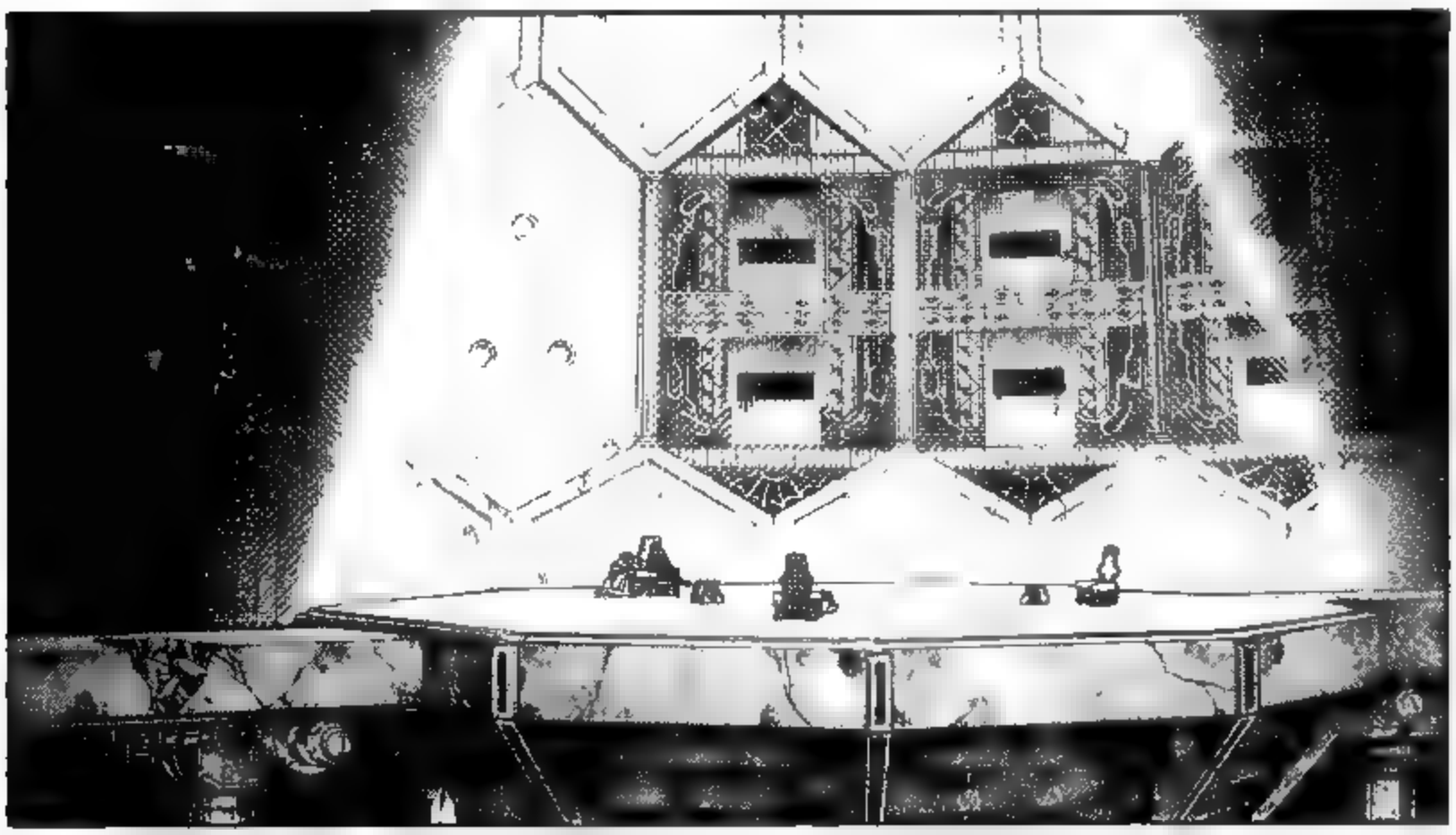
http://evil-genius.us/forums


I WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SOME RANDOM PENDANT AND LOST IT SOMEWHERE, BUT NOW I CAN RELAX.
THAT'S EXCEL-LENT. HE DID GIVE IT TO YOU.

RIIIGHT?
NO WAY YOU'D LOSE IT.
IT'S A KEEP-SAKE. A VERY IMPORTANT ONE.

Chapter 135
(LOCATION OF THE KEEPSAKE)


HUH, WHO KNOWS?



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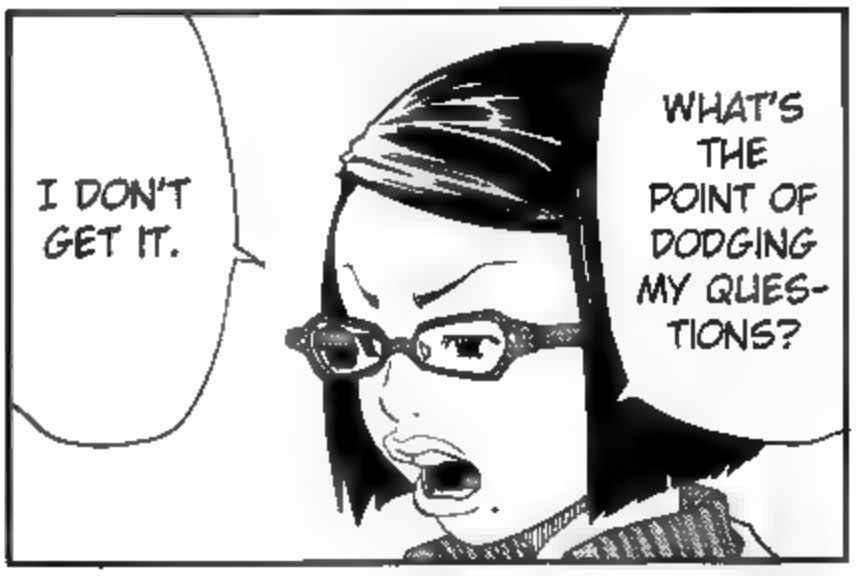
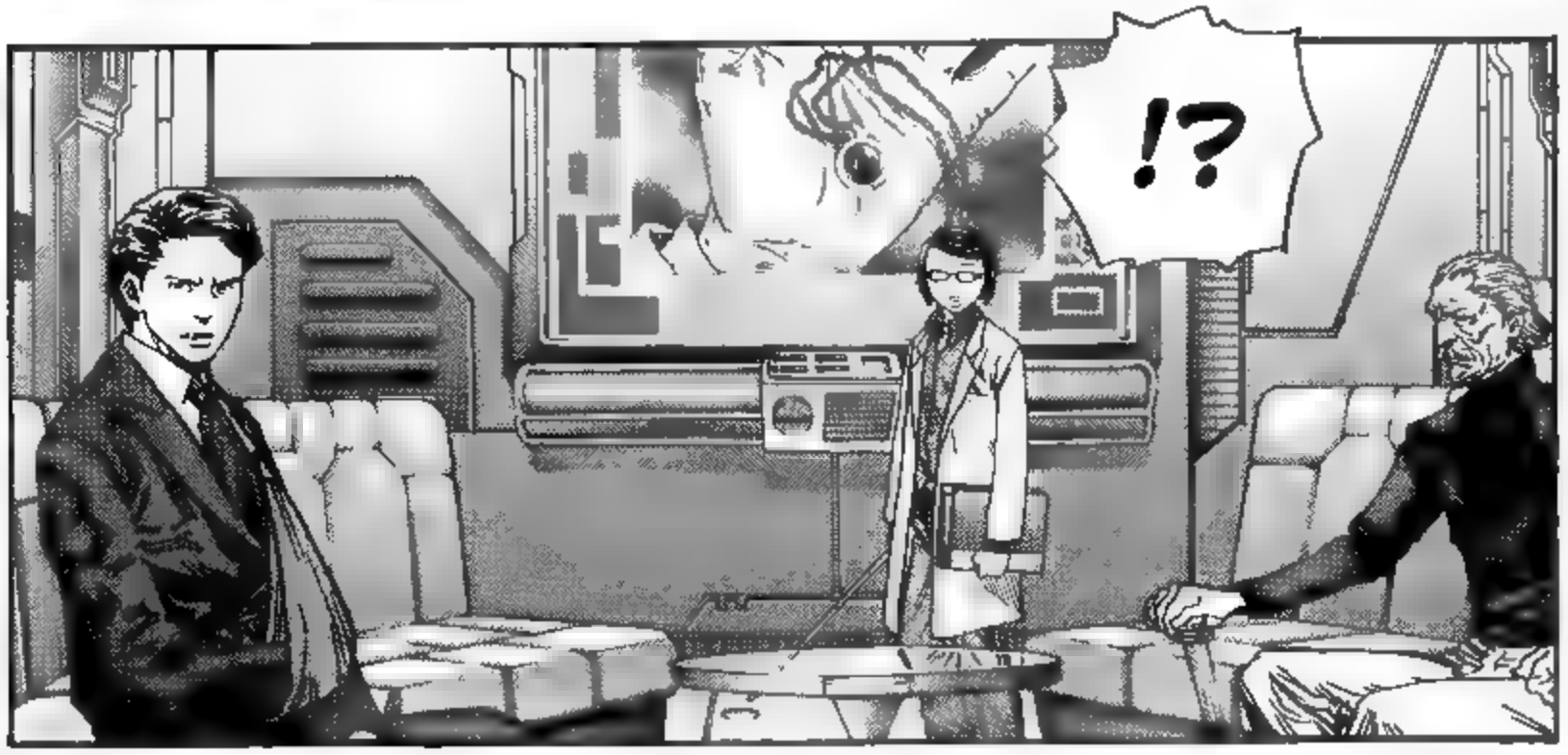

I DON'T GET IT.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF DODGING MY QUES-TIONS?

TRUST, AIN'T IT.

OR ARE YOU JUST WINDING ME UP?
OR INTO SADISM PERHAPS?
GRRR, YOU'RE SUCH A BAD BOY. DID YOU HIT PUBERTY?

YOU NEVER PROVED YOU'RE NOT A SPY... ACTUALLY, THAT GOES FOR ALL THREE OF YOU.
I JUST MET YOU TODAY.
HOW THE HELL CAN I TRUST YOU?

!


!?

BUT HEY, WAITING 97 MINUTES'D SOLVE THAT QUESTION.

ANY OF YOU COULD BE FAKE HUMANS IN DISGUISE.

YOU'RE CRAZY!

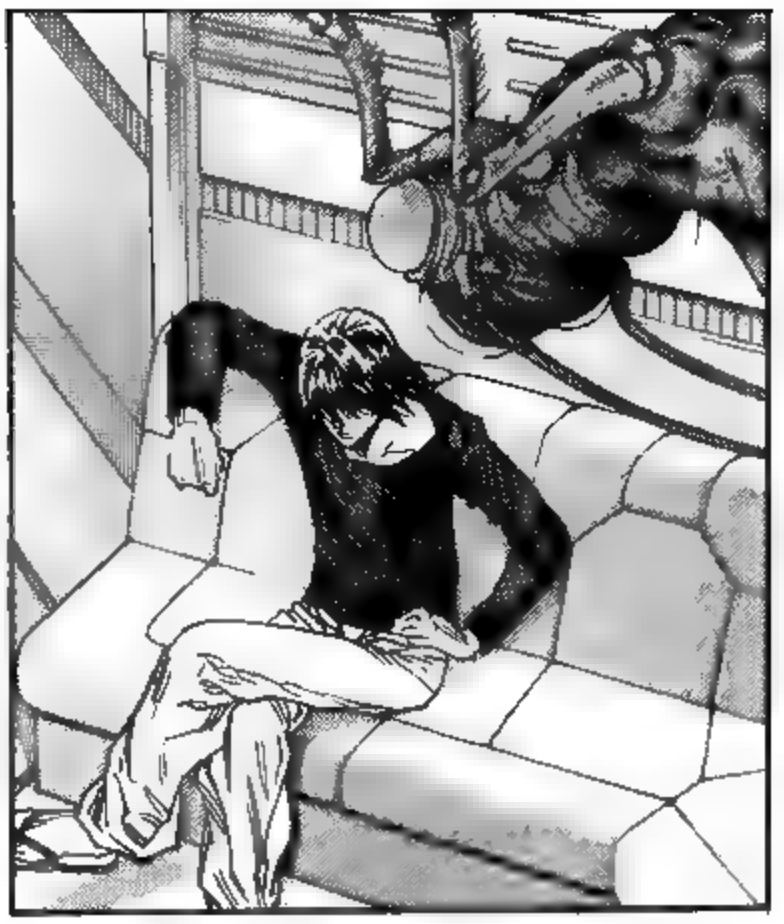
SFX: GARI GARI

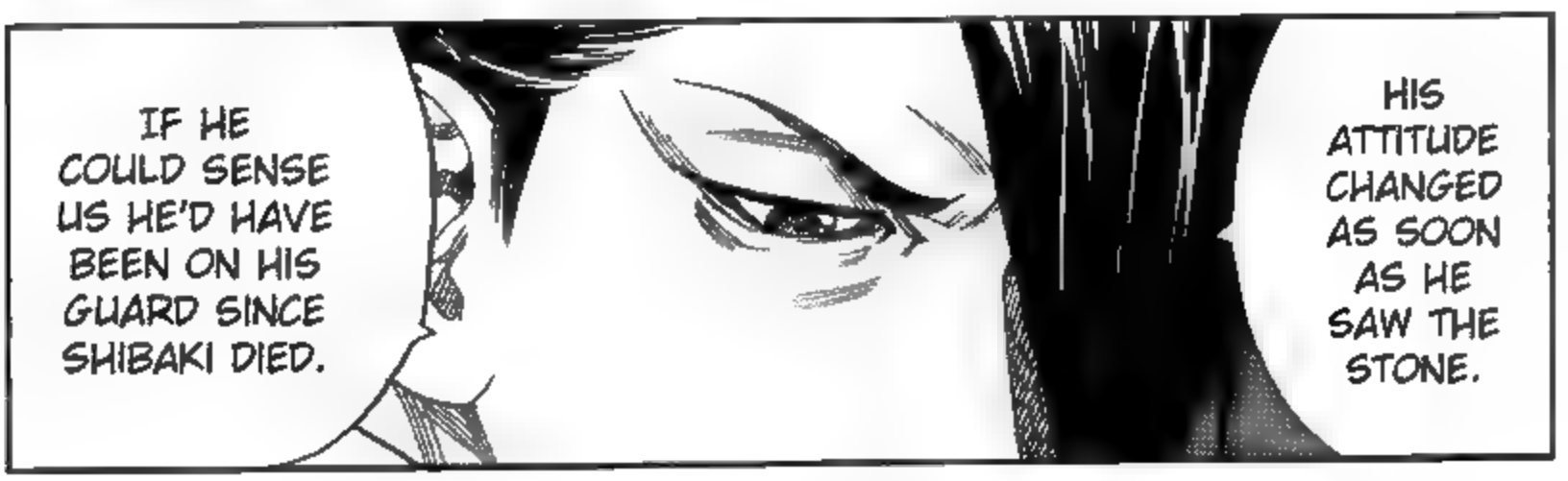
WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

THAT MEI CHICK'S WORDS GOT UNDER MY SKIN.

SHI-BAKI'S SUICIDE WAS PRETTY SUDDEN TOO.

NAH.
HAVE WE BEEN DE-TECTED?




IF HE COULD SENSE US HE'D HAVE BEEN ON HIS GUARD SINCE SHIBAKI DIED.
HIS ATTITUDE CHANGED AS SOON AS HE SAW THE STONE.

WHAT DOES HIS AGI-TATION MEAN?
IS HE SIMPLY TRYING TO PREVENT THE AWAK-ENING?
IF THAT WERE SO, HE'D HAVE BEEN UNCOOP-ERATIVE FROM THE START.
BUT WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM THIS WORRIED WITH HIS INNER CIRCLE?
HE'S SAYING ALL THAT TO STIR THINGS UP TO BUY SOME TIME... HE'S THINKING ABOUT HOW TO EXPLAIN THE STONE'S LOCATION...
HIS EXPRES-SION...
AGITATED ... THOUGHT-FUL...

HE DIDN'T SENSE YOU LAST TIME HE HALF AWOKE, DID HE? WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS TIME?

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

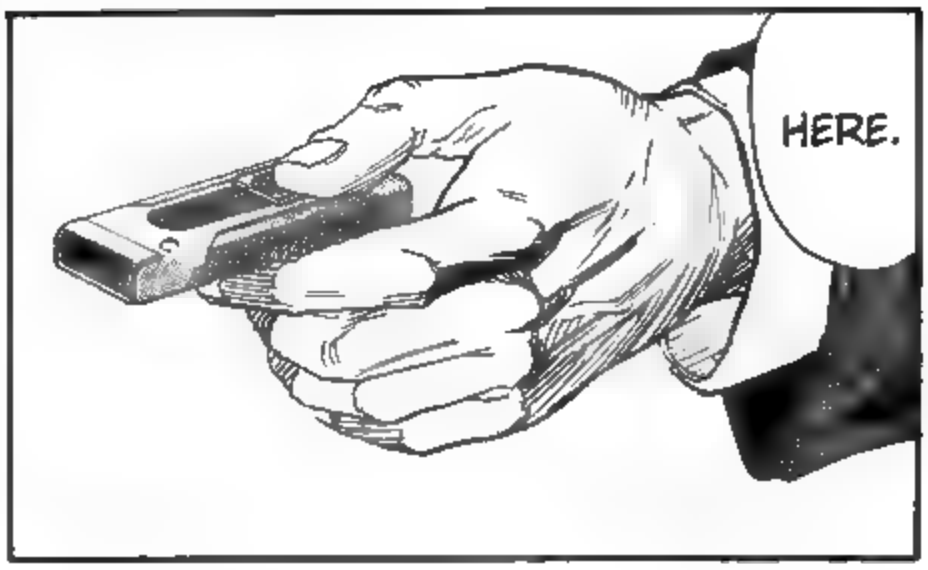
ARE YOU CERTAIN... THAT HE HASN'T DETECTED US?

HE'S HARD TO READ.

BUT STILL.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

SMELLS FISHY ...


HERE.

MIND IF I CARRY ON?
ER...

...
YOU'LL NEED IT IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ENEMIES LYING IN WAIT.
HANG ONTO THAT.

SFX: PON

...

HUH? ME?
SURE, I GUESS.
COULD YOU TAKE SOME TEA THROUGH TO THE OTHERS, SANAE?

NO, LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

FANCY A CUPPA?

YOUR TEA IS SERVED, MASTER!

ばぁ

WAH!

HOW ABOUT ACTING THE ROLE A BIT BETTER?

PLAYING THE MAID?

THANKS.

SFX: BA / GACHA GACHA

OW OWOW OW!

SFX: GASHAN

!

SHIT.

THAT BITCH ...

SFX: RU— / GURA

WHAT HAP-PEN-ED!?

WH ... WHAT DID YOU ...?

YOU DIDN'T SOUND WILLING TO TELL US THE TRUTH. APOL-OGIES ...

FAST ACTING SLEEP-ING PILLS.

YES ... SIR.

PREPARE THE BRAIN SCANNER.

SFX: DOH

UU

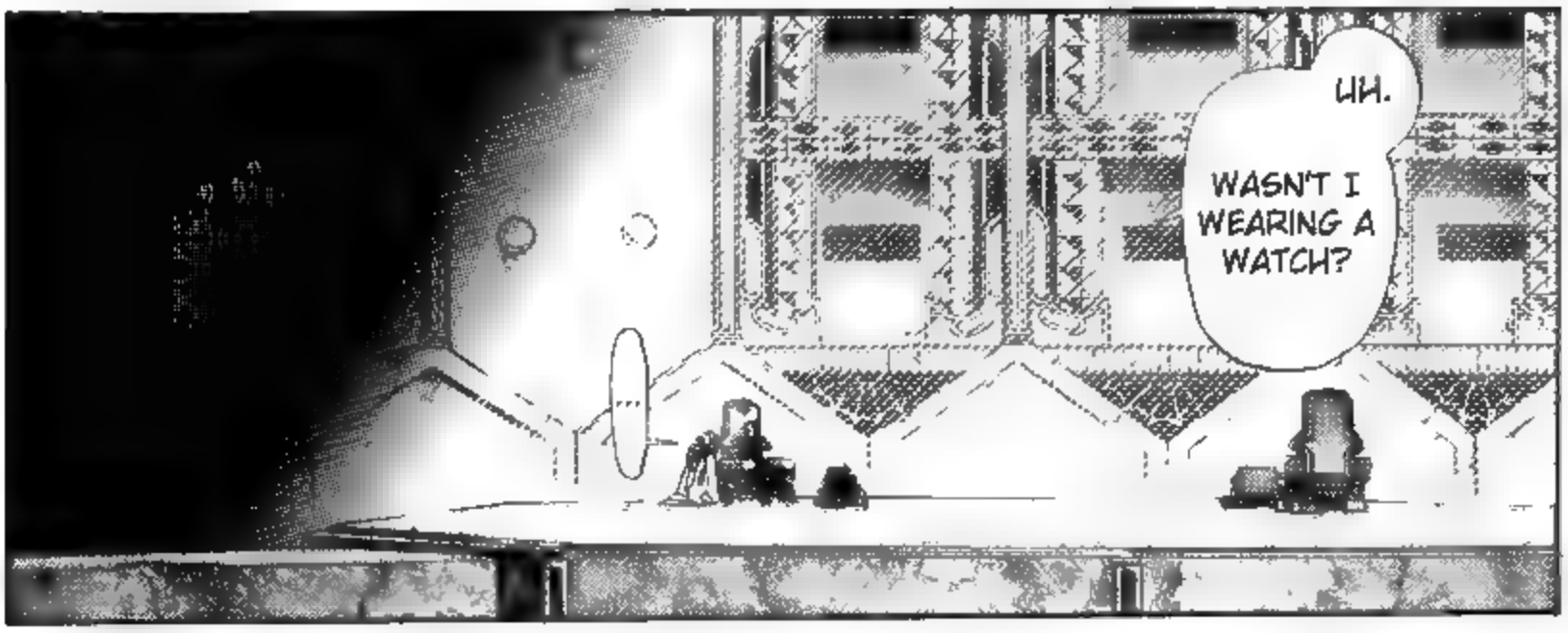
OLD MAN AMAGI'S SO MERCILESS IT'S FUNNY.

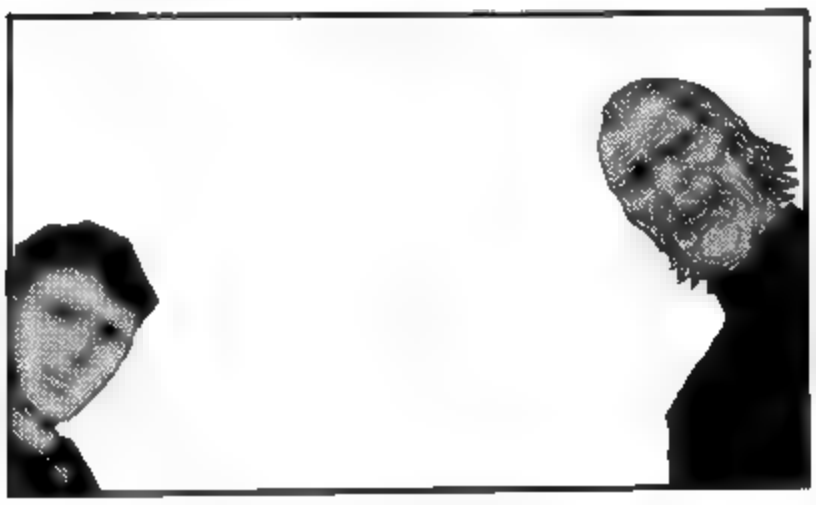
HE'S JUST SO HARSH. I'M BECOMING A FAN.

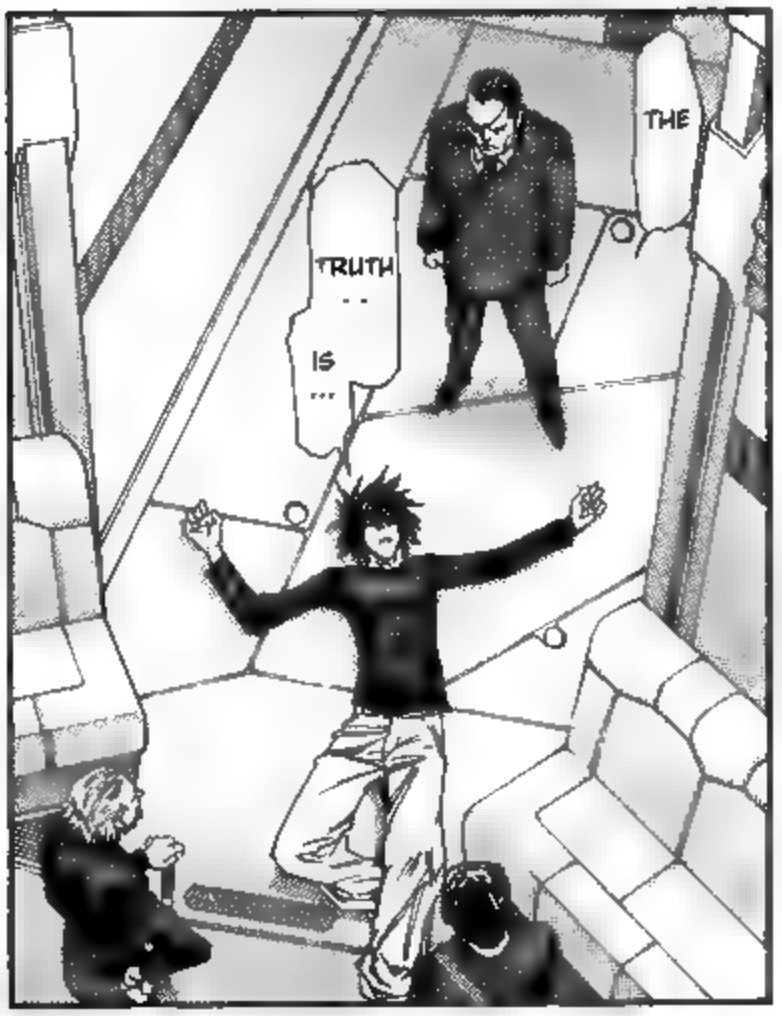
BUT HE'D BETTER WIND THIS UP SOON.

THE STEALTH TEAM WON'T LIVE MUCH LONGER.

HOW MANY HOURS LEFT?


UH.
WASN'T I WEARING A WATCH?




THE
TRUTH
..
IS
...

IN THE FIRE...
I LOST IT...
THE FIRE...

IT
...
WAS
...
GONE
...
FIGHT
...
AFTER
...
THE
...

—BUT HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN IT BACK BY NOW.
NO, HE PROBABLY DOESN'T REMEMBER SEEING THIS... SEE HOW FUZZY THE IMAGE IS? IT'S A SUBCONSCIOUS MEMORY.
CAN'T SEE ANY MEMORY OF HIM GETTING IT BACK.
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER SHE STILL HAS IT OR NOT...

SFX: RU—

RIGHT AWAY? HE'S STILL UNCON-SCIOUS ...

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT. LET'S GO.

I'M SURE SHE'S BEEN INNOCENTLY MISSING ALL HER CHANCES TO RETURN IT.

I SEE ...

...

KNOWING KONOHA, SHE'S TAKING GOOD CARE OF IT FOR HIM.

!?

GEEZ, I'M SO SICK OF WAIT-ING.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS! YOU'RE THE ONE.

INSIDE THAT MANSION THERE'S A GIRL

SHE'S GOT THE RED STONE. GO FIND IT, OK?

BUT YOU'LL GO INTO MELTDOWN IN JUST UNDER TWO HOURS, SO YOU NEED TO HURRY IT UP

ROGER THAT.

WON'T BE QUICK THOUGH

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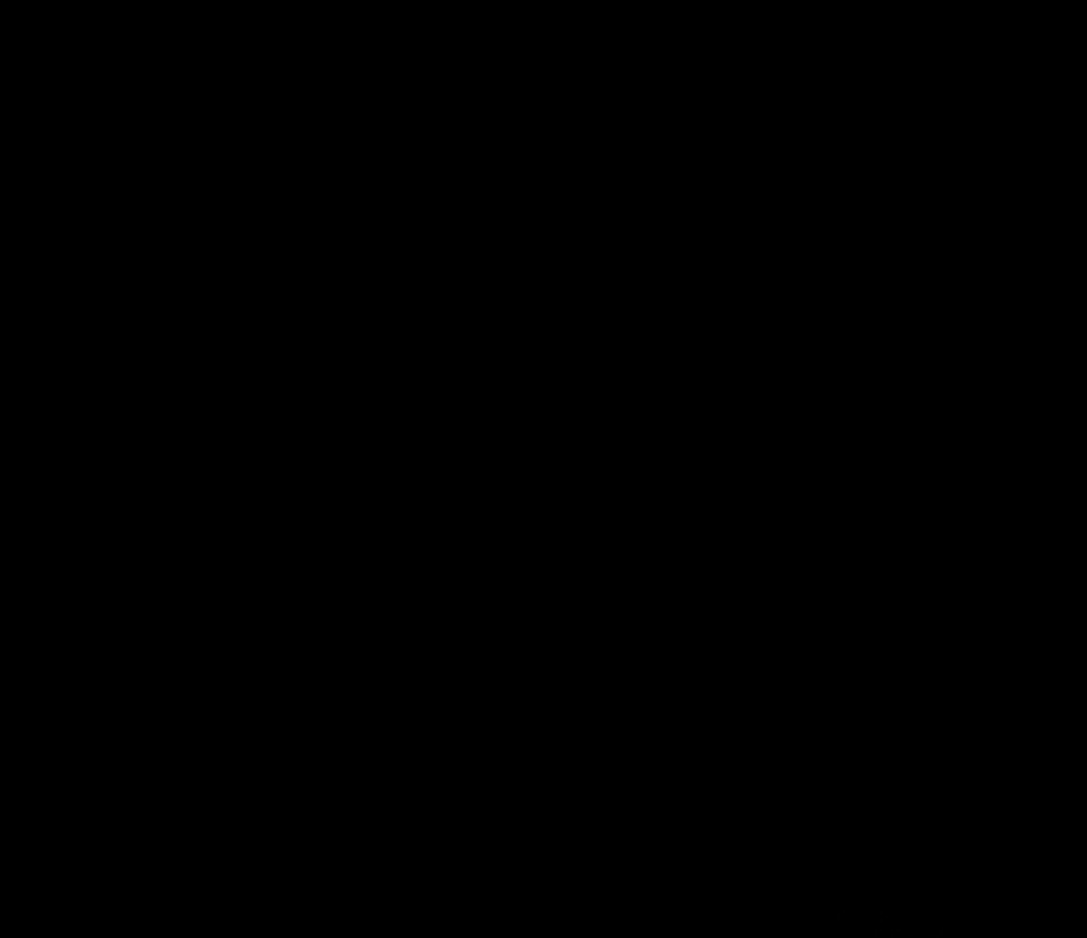
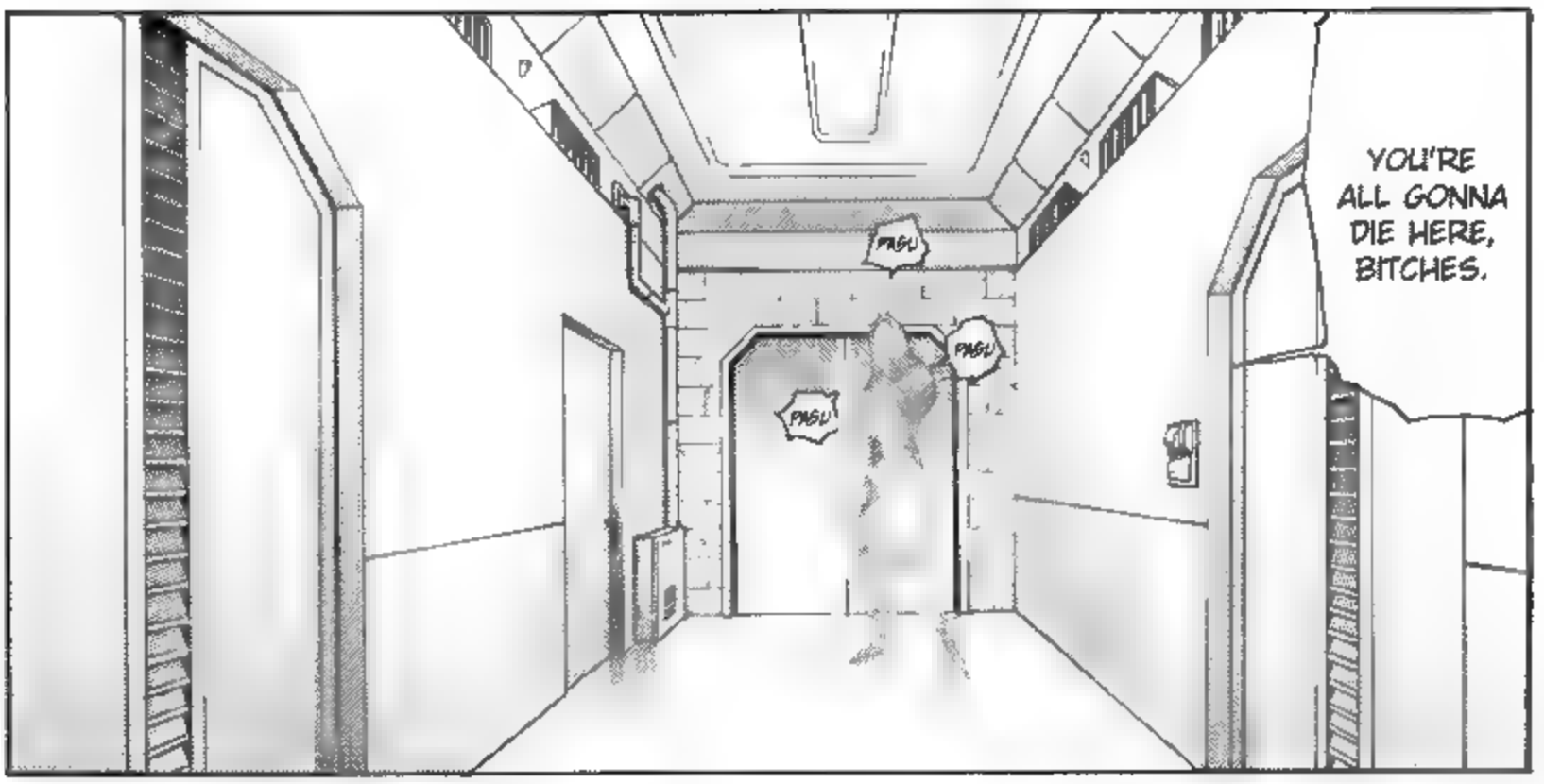
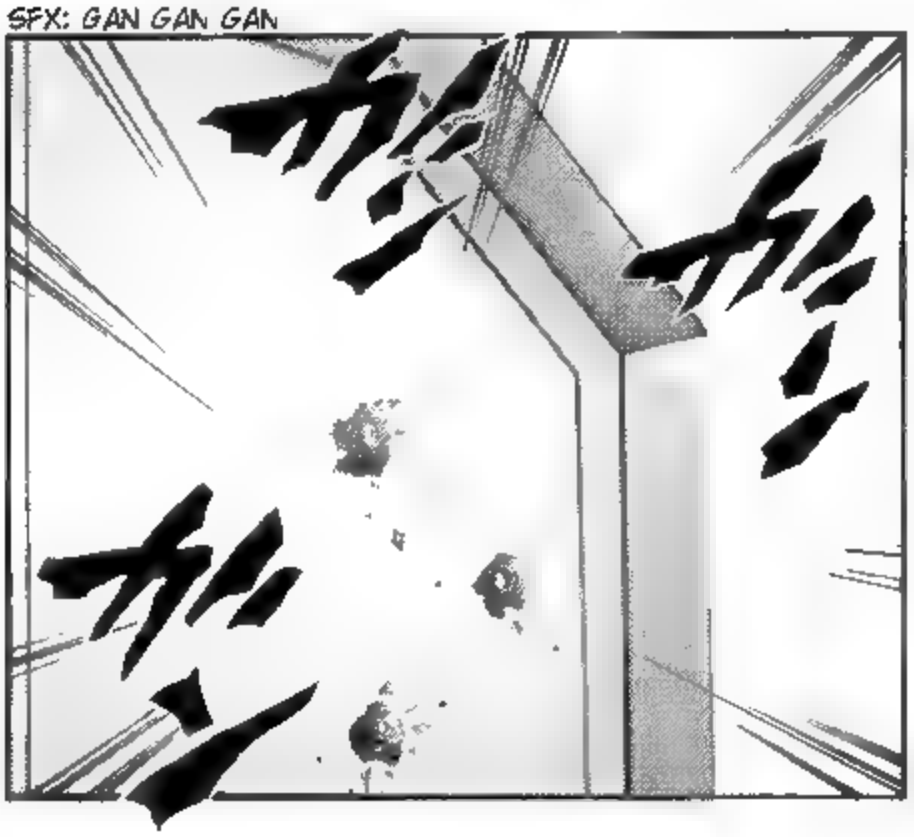


Chapter 136
(ONE OF ME)

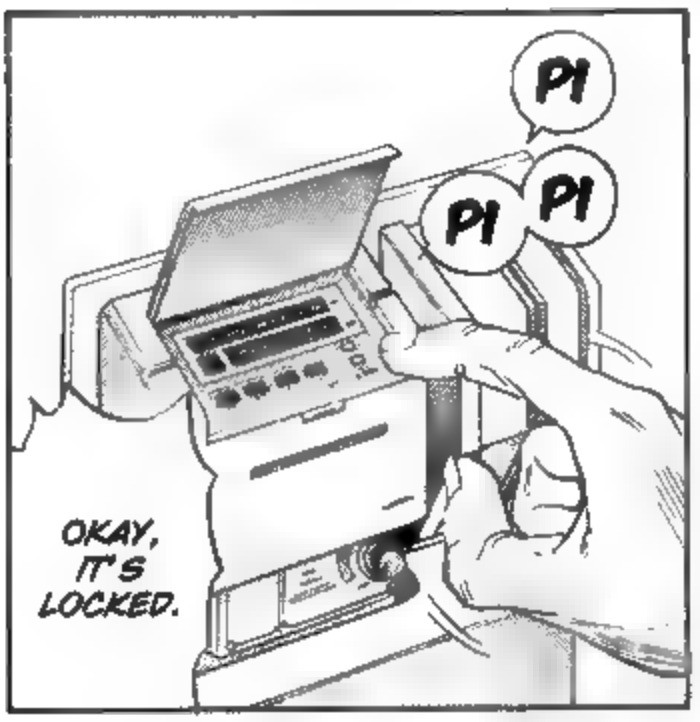
SFX: BAH



SFX: GAN GAN GAN



HEH. THAT'S A WASTE OF TIME.


PI
PI
PI
OKAY, IT'S LOCKED.

WHAT!? AN ENEMY?

HE SOUNDS LIKE...

YES!
DID YOU HEAR HIS VOICE !?

SFX: GURA

HOW FUCKING FAR!?

SHIT...

YOU LOOKED AT MY MEMORIES, HUH!? HOW FAR DID YOU WATCH?

?

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

ENE-MIES?

WHY !?

FORGET ABOUT THAT! LIKE YOU THOUGHT, THERE'S AN INTRUDER HERE! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

SFX: DOH

NO. DON'T THERE'S NO TIME TO KILL NEEDLESSLY FOCUS ON GETTING THE STONE AND STEALTHILY

DO I GO IN ALL GUNS BLAZING?

I'LL BE KILLING THE GIRL ANYWAY RIGHT?

SENSORS? THAT'S ANNOY-ING

...

THEY'RE BIO-SENSING INFRAREDS.

TCH.

SO THEY COULD COME AND GO FREELY EVEN AT NIGHT PRETTY CON-VENIENT ONLY BURGLARS WOULD SET THEM OFF.

YEAH. THEY'RE A SPECIAL TYPE THAT THE OWNER INSTALLED TO AVOID REACTING TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

OH.

REALLY

STROLL RIGHT IN THE FRONT DOOR.

SOOOO NOT A PROBLEM.

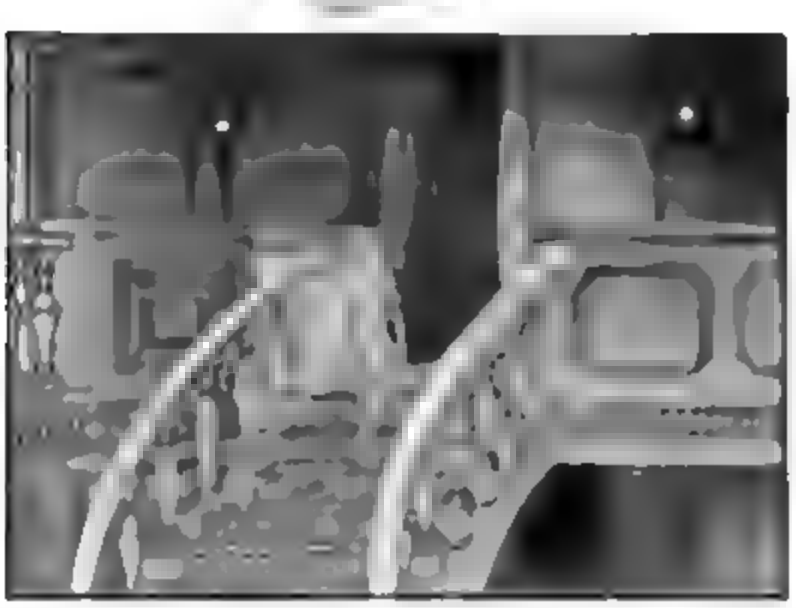
SFX ZA

OKAY. I WILL.

SFX PIPIPIPI

GACHA

GOOD! THE "ARGE" IS A GIRL NAMED KONOHA NOW SENDING AN MAGE



SIX FAMILY MEMBERS, FIVE CLEANING STAFF, ONE COOK AND THREE SECURITY GUARDS

I BET THE STAFF DON'T HAVE ROOMS IN THE MAIN BUILDING

AND,

THE GRAND-MOTHER'S IN HOSPITAL, THE MOTHER MOVED OUT AND THE FATHER LIVES AT AMAGI TOWER

OF THE SIX FAMILY.

THAT'D BE A REAL PAIN

JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GO INTO THE BOY'S ROOM BY MISTAKE.

SO BASICALLY, THERE'S JUST THE TWO KIDS THERE NOW SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND, RIGHT?

THE GRAND-FATHER IS WITH JIN NOW

GIMME A CLOSE UP
GOT SOME N!
FUNNY IF IT WAS A SERVANT
...
WE'RE IN LUCK IT'S THE TARGET THAT'S DEFINITELY A FEMALE BODY

BINGO.

THAT'S NOT A SERVANT'S ROOM.

IF WE GET THIS RIGHT, WE WON'T HAVE TO SEARCH THE PLACE.

OKAY, GET OUT OF THE SUIT.

SFX: GIGIGIG!

SFX: GATA GATA GATA

TAKE THIS.

WHAT !?

OY!

SFX: GIGIGIGIGI

SFX: DOH

SFX GUGUGU

SHUT IT!

MY ASS! YOU'RE TOUCH-ING MY ASS!

I-I'M SHAKING.

SFX GUWA

KYAAA! TOO HIGH!

SFX· DOH GOH

TELL IT TO THE DAMN ARCHI-TECT!

SFX: BASHU

?

PU

SFX GA

!

THE MACHINES ARE GONNA BREAK!

WHY DID WE DO THAT!?

AL-RIGHT! NOW WE CAN SEE HIS MOVEMENTS A LITTLE!

IT'S AN INVISIBLE ENEMY!

HMPH.

SFX. BACHA BACHA

GOTCHA.

I'LL LET YOU SEE ME. THERE'S NO NEED TO SNEAK AROUND ANYMORE.

BAH!

I'D SUGGEST YOU NOT USE IT.

I HIT YOU WITH A DRUG THAT REACTS BADLY TO YOUR GUM.

HEH. A WORD OF WARNING.

IT'S EASIER TO FIGHT YOU WHEN YOU'RE VISIBLE.

ARE YOU STUPID?

FUCKER! HE'S LAUGHING AT US!

SFX: DOH

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE OF ME.

I'VE GOT ANOTHER WARNING FOR YOU.

!?

BLUFFING IS ALL ABOUT THE TIMING.

TOO LATE.

SFX: ZAH

ONE OF THE OTHERS,
ANY MINUTE NOW
WILL BE KILLING KONOHA AND TAKING THE RED STONE, I GUESS?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LATE, BRO.

ZETMAN

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KONOHA.

HEY.

!

SFX: BAH

WHAT'S WRONG?

SFX: GABAH

EH?

WHAT?

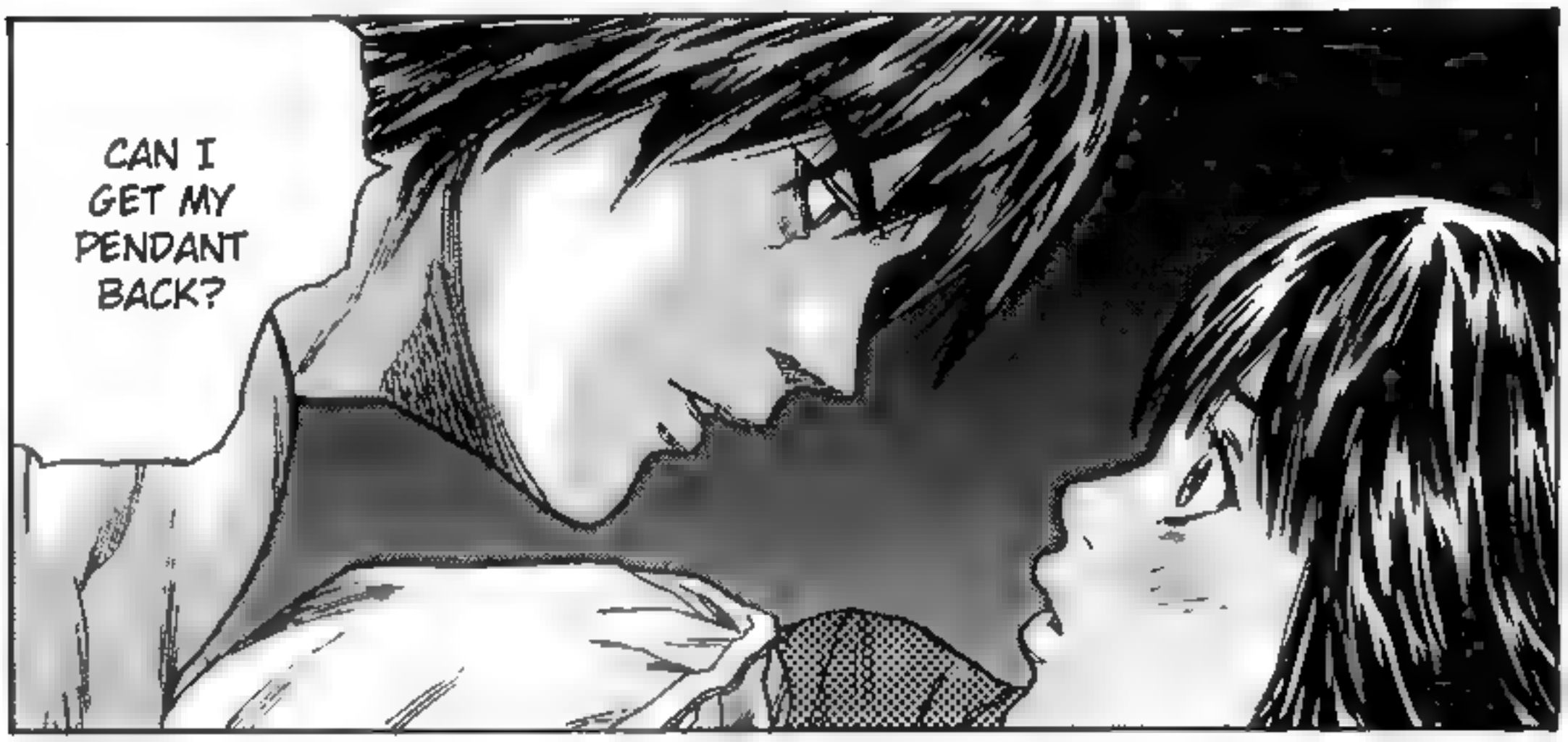
WHAT?

IT'S 4 AM!

!?

SFX: GUH

SFX: DOH DOH DOH



Chapter 137
(CLONE REJECTION)

HE'S A CLONE OF JIN.

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "BRO"?

SFX: DOKA GOH

KUH

WOAAAH.

THAT GUY'S REALLY GOING TOE TO TOE WITH JIN.

NO! IMPOSSIBLE! ZET CELLS CANNOT POSSIBLY BE CLONED.

JUST RECENTLY THEY USED SOME OF JIN'S BLOOD TO MAKE FAKE HUMAN BASE UNITS INTO CLONES.

WHICH REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING SHIBAKI'S BRAIN TOLD ME.

THEY'VE ONLY EXISTED FOR A SHORT WHILE.

JIN'S NOT FULLY ZET YET SO THESE CLONE REJECTS ARE ALSO INCOM-PLETE.

BUT THAT MUST BE ONE OF THEM.

THINKING THEY'D FAILED, I DIDN'T BRING IT UP.

TRUE. IT SEEMS THEY FAILED.

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO GO INTO MELTDOWN AFTER THREE DAYS...

Yeah, for sure!

OY!

WHAT IS

...

WHAT A THING...

THIS IS A STALE-MATE...

YOU'RE GOOD...

SINCE YOU'RE ME.

SFX: TAH

ANY CHANCE YOU COULD LOWER YOUR FISTS?

I'LL MAKE IT A GOOD CLEAN DEATH.

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE GOING AT IT FOR-EVER.

!

SFX: GAN GAN GAN

SFX: GO GO GO GO

SFX: GAKON

SFX: GO GO GO GO

SFX: DOH!

SAY WHAT!? FIRST STOP IS THE MANSION!

WE CAN LEAVE THE CHAIRMAN WITH HANAE AND...

CHAIRMAN! IS THIS SHOOTER TRACK CONNECTED TO AMAGI TOWER OR ANYWHERE ELSE WITH A HOSPITAL?

SO THE JOB AT HAND IS TO SAVE THE CHAIRMAN'S LIFE.

IF THEY SENT A CLONE OF JIN THEN THE SECURITY WOULDN'T WORK. AND IF A GUARD NOTICED HIM, HE'D BE DEAD IN AN INSTANT.

IT'S POINTLESS, THE STONE'S ALREADY BEEN STOLEN.

BEING IN THAT PLACE WAS INCREDIBLY DANGER-OUS.

WE RAN... TO PRO-TECT THE CHAIR-MAN.

IF WE'D STAYED PUT HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SHOT!

SO WHAT DID WE RUN FOR!?

YOU ...

HAVE FAITH.

JIN WILL BE FINE. HE CAN'T BE KILLED.

SO YOU ABAN-DONED JIN!

NO ...

DON'T STOP ...

SFX: BAH

WHA!?

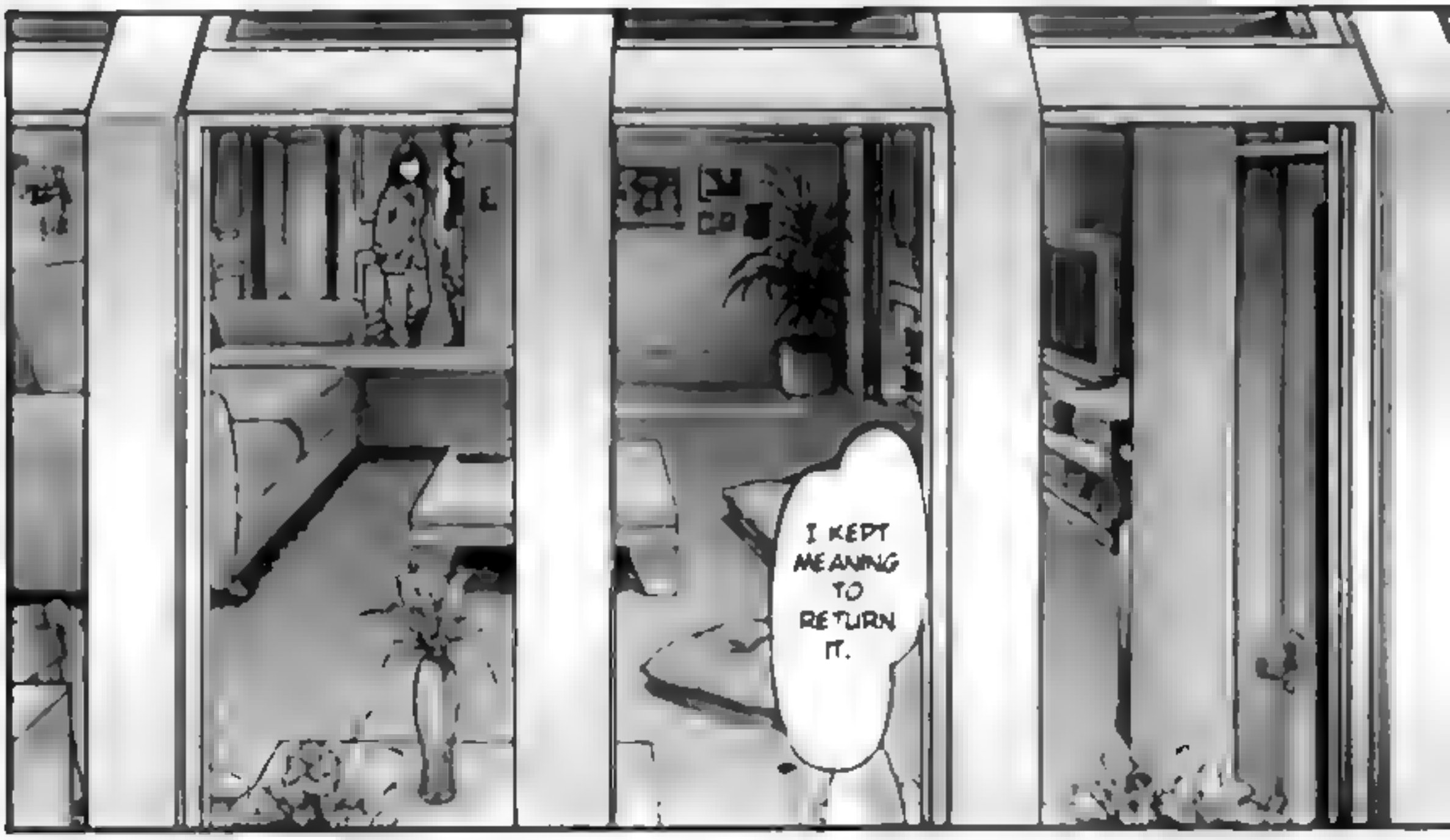
STOP THIS THING! I'M GOING TO BACK UP JIN!

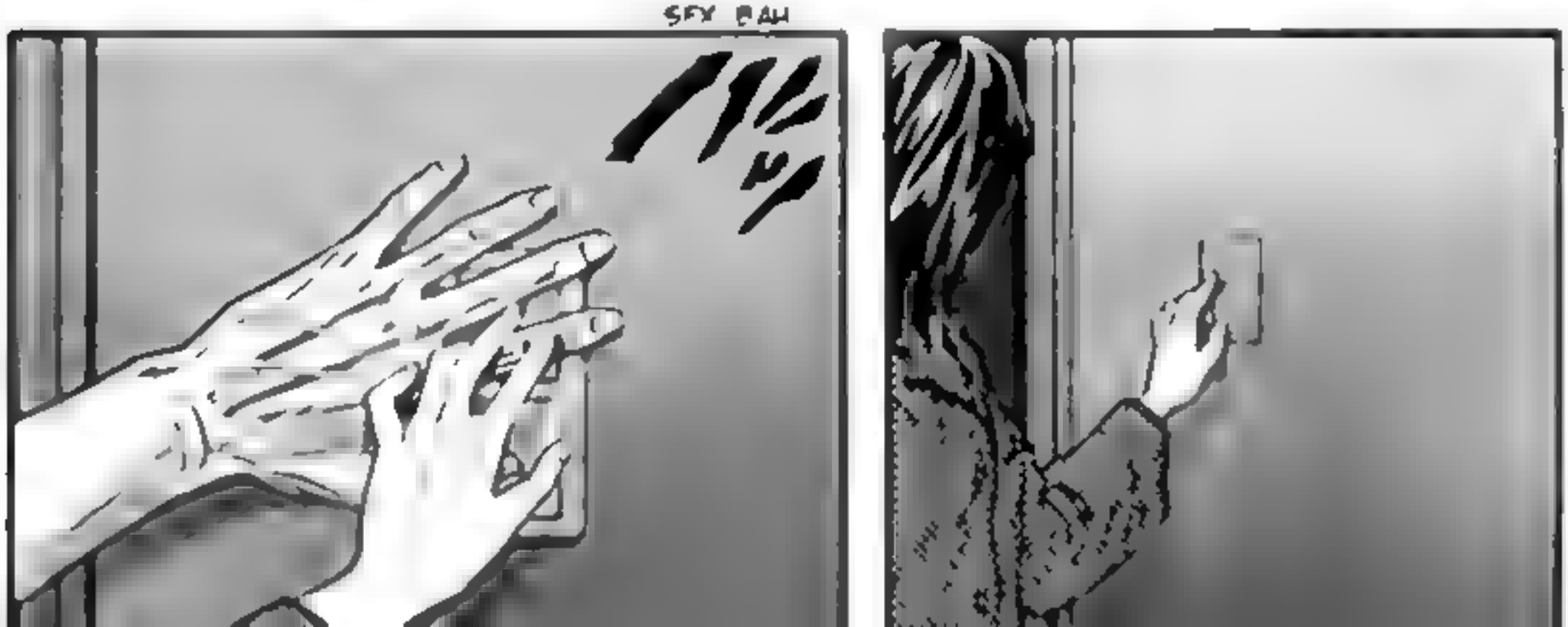
WE DON'T KNOW THAT IT'S BEEN STOLEN! WE MUST NOT GIVE UP!
THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED...
TO HAVE THE STONE.

I TRUST THE TWO OF YOU ARE WILLING TO LAY DOWN YOUR LIVES FOR THIS!

ALL THE WAY BACK TO THEIR HIDEOUT!
IF THEY'VE TAKEN IT, THEN WE FOLLOW.

I'M SORRY


I KEPT MEANING TO RETURN IT.


SFX BAH

...

DON'T TURN ON THE LIGHT.

?

UH, TODAY, I GUESS...

I WAS PLANNING TO GIVE IT BACK.

TO-MOR-ROW ...

NOW.

IT'S A KEEPSAKE FROM GRANDPA.

...

I NEED YOU TO SAY THIS NATURALLY - 'COS IT'S A KEEPSAKE FROM GRANDPA.

DON'T RUSH IT! YOUR WORDS DON'T FIT YOUR PERSONA!

IT WAS REALLY IMPOR-TANT TO YOU.

RIGHT.

SFX: ZuRu ZuRu ZuRu

SFX: BI

I'M SO SORRY I DIDN'T RETURN IT SOONER...

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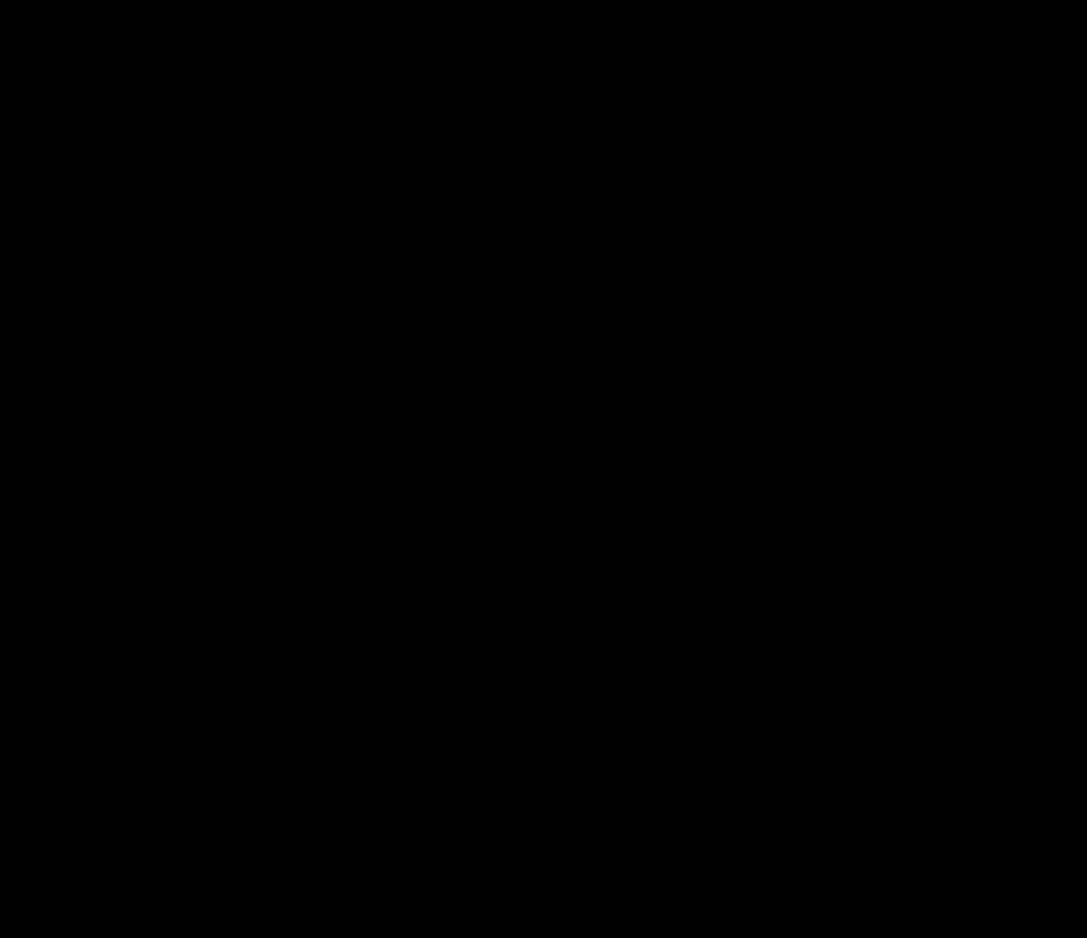


SFX: GOHO

IS GREATER THAN ME... AND JIN.

RIGHT NOW...

THE RED STONE...

ISN'T THIS REAL BAD!?

CHAIRMAN! YOU NEED TO GET TO A HOSPITAL, LIKE, NOW!

WOAH, HOLD IT!

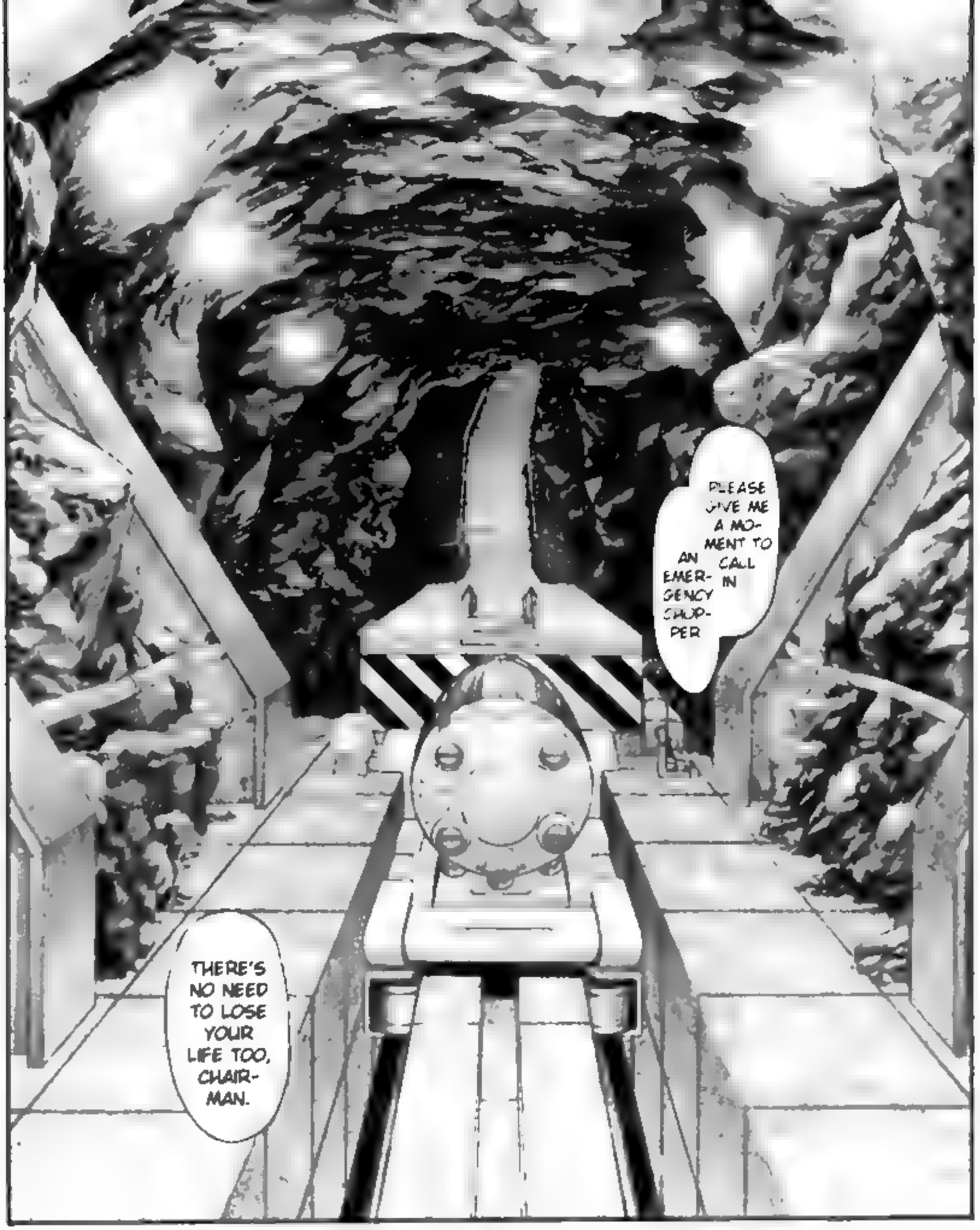
IT'S NOT THE TIME...

TO BE SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT!

SFX: GAKON

HOW-EVER.

UNDER-STOOD.



Chapter 138
(EQUAL POWER)

SFX: GAH

SFX: BAN

SFX TAN

SFX: ZAH

SFX MYL

SFX: BAH

SFX: TOH

SFX· GO

SFX. GA

SFX. DO

SFX: GO

SFX: DO

SFX. ZAZAH

THIS IS FUN.

SFX. TAH

RIGHT, BRO?

MAN, DEATH MATCHES ARE THE BEST.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE ON THE HUMANS' SIDE.

BUT THINK ABOUT IT. YOU WERE BORN FOR SLAUGH-TER.

THIS IS TOTALLY IN YOUR BLOOD! YOUR BLOOD'S ELATED!

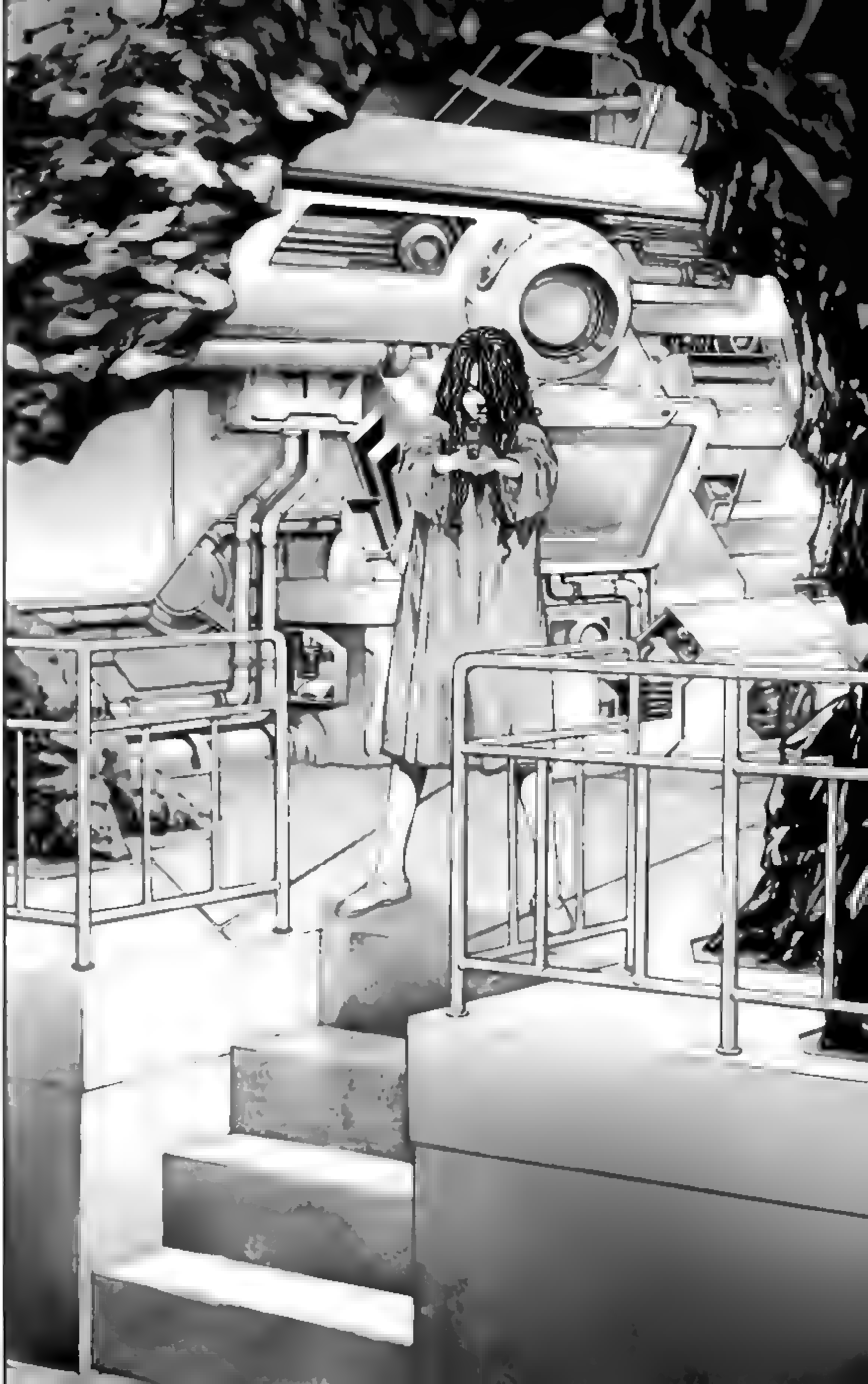
HOW COULD THERE BE A BETTER GAME, EH?

LET'S DO IT! OPPONENTS OF EQUAL POWER, FIGHTING AN ENDLESS DEATH MATCH!

SFX: GAH

?

SFX: DON DON DON



I'LL ENJOY KILLING YOU.
HUH. I THOUGHT EVERYONE HAD RUN, BUT THERE'S STILL ONE LOSER LEFT.

YOU AND ME, WE'RE DIFFER-ENT.
TOO BAD.

SFX: DOSAH

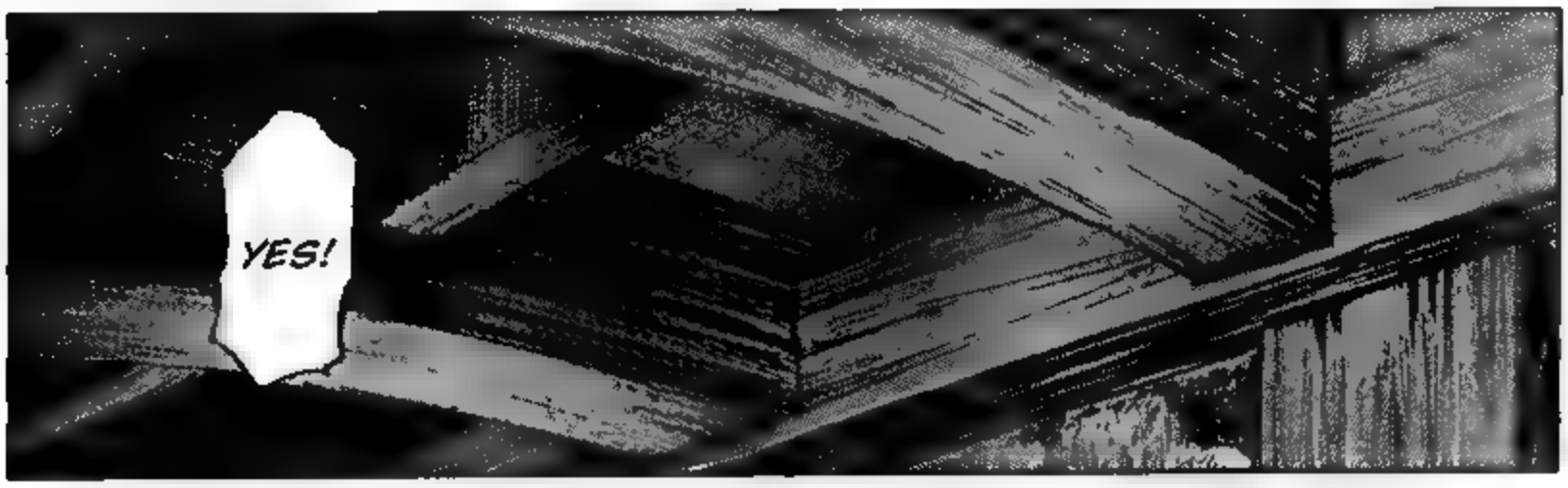
I'D NEVER TAKE MY EYES OFF AN ENEMY IN A FIGHT.

YOU'RE LACKING EXPERI-ENCE.

... I CAN LEAVE YOU ALONE HERE.

THERE'S NO WAY ...

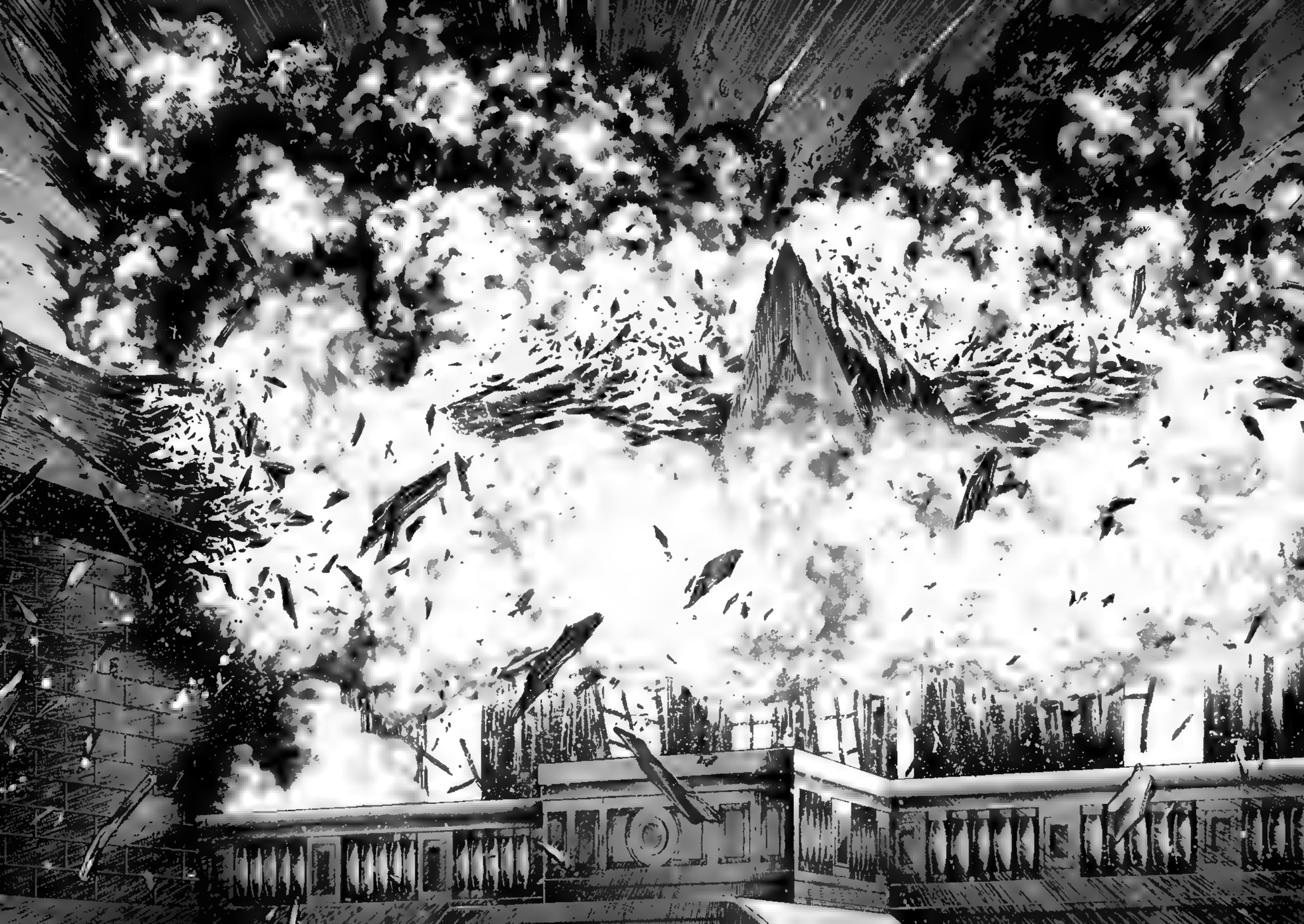
COME ON.


YES!

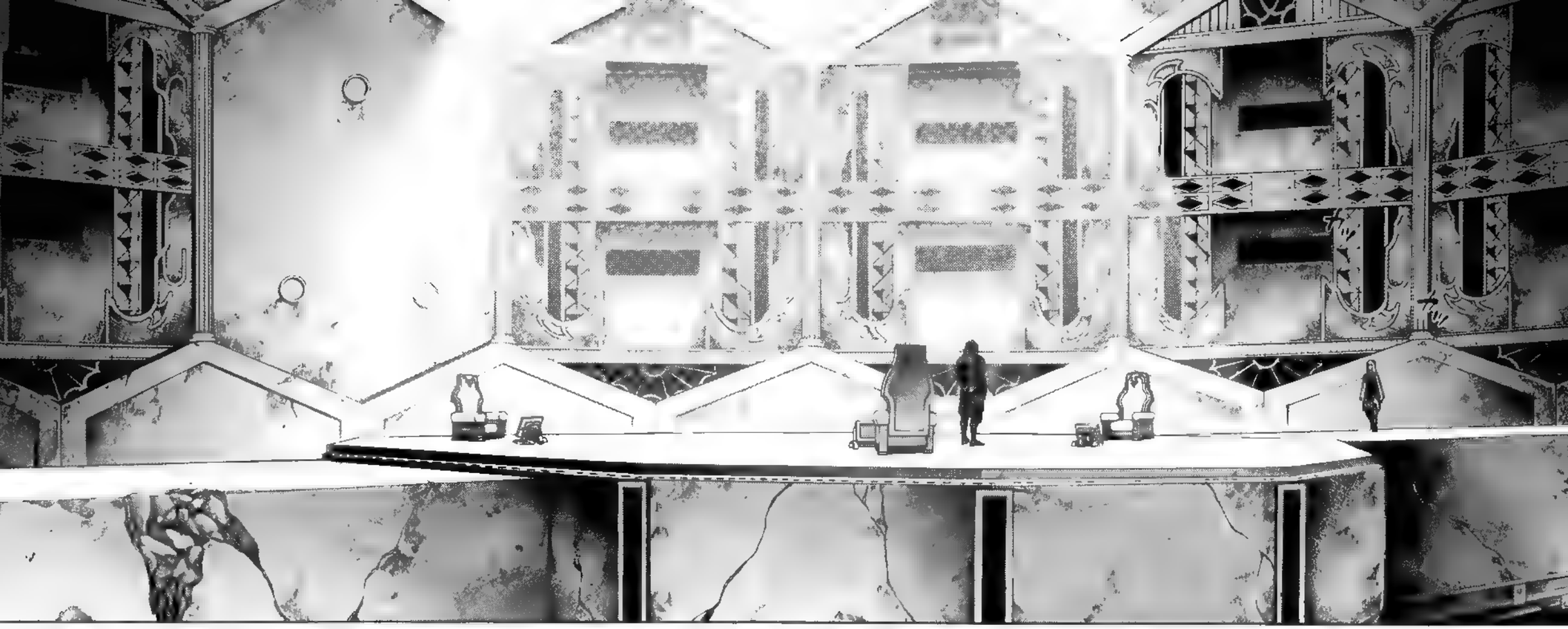
NO, THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! JUST GET HERE—

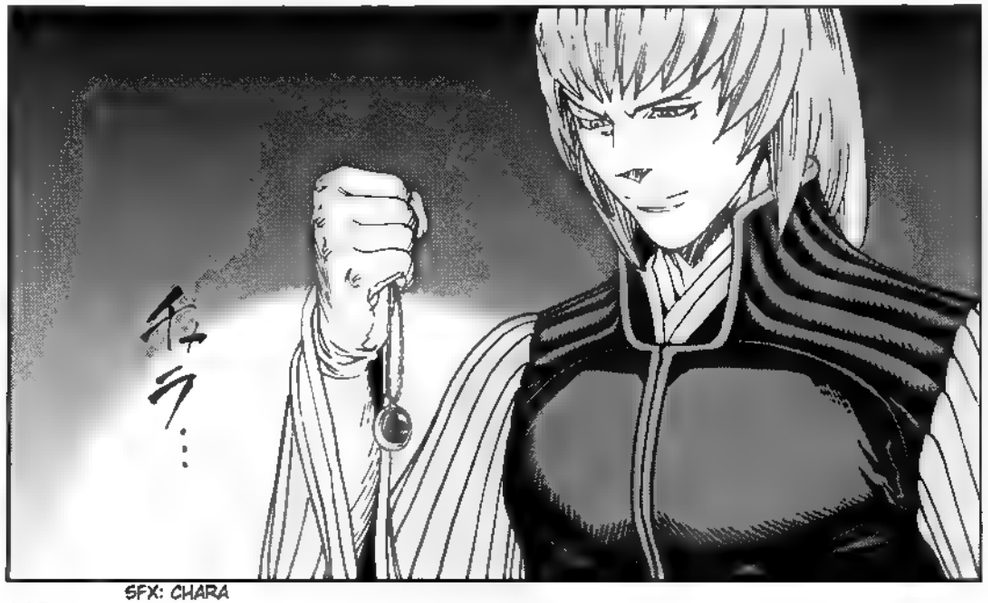
WE NEED AN URGENT FIRST AID CHOPPER AT THE AMAGI MANSION!
THE CHAIRMAN'S BADLY IN-JURED AND IN GRAVE CONDITION!

SFX: DON

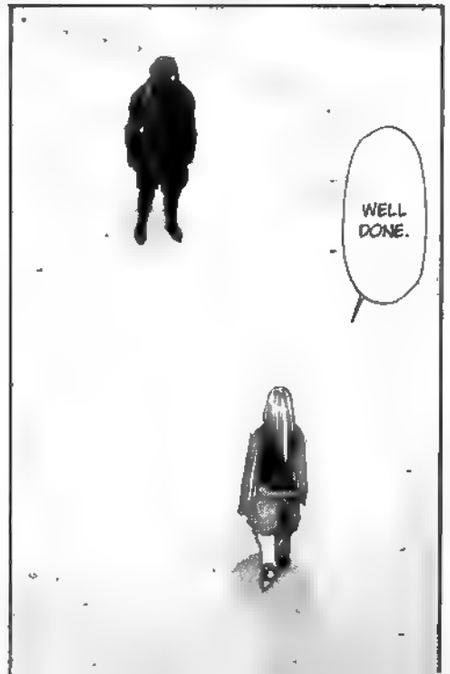


SFX GOGOGOGOGO
SFX DODODO
SFX





SFX: CHARA



ONLY ...

YEAH. SPEC-TACU-LARLY.

DID YOU CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF?

WHAT?

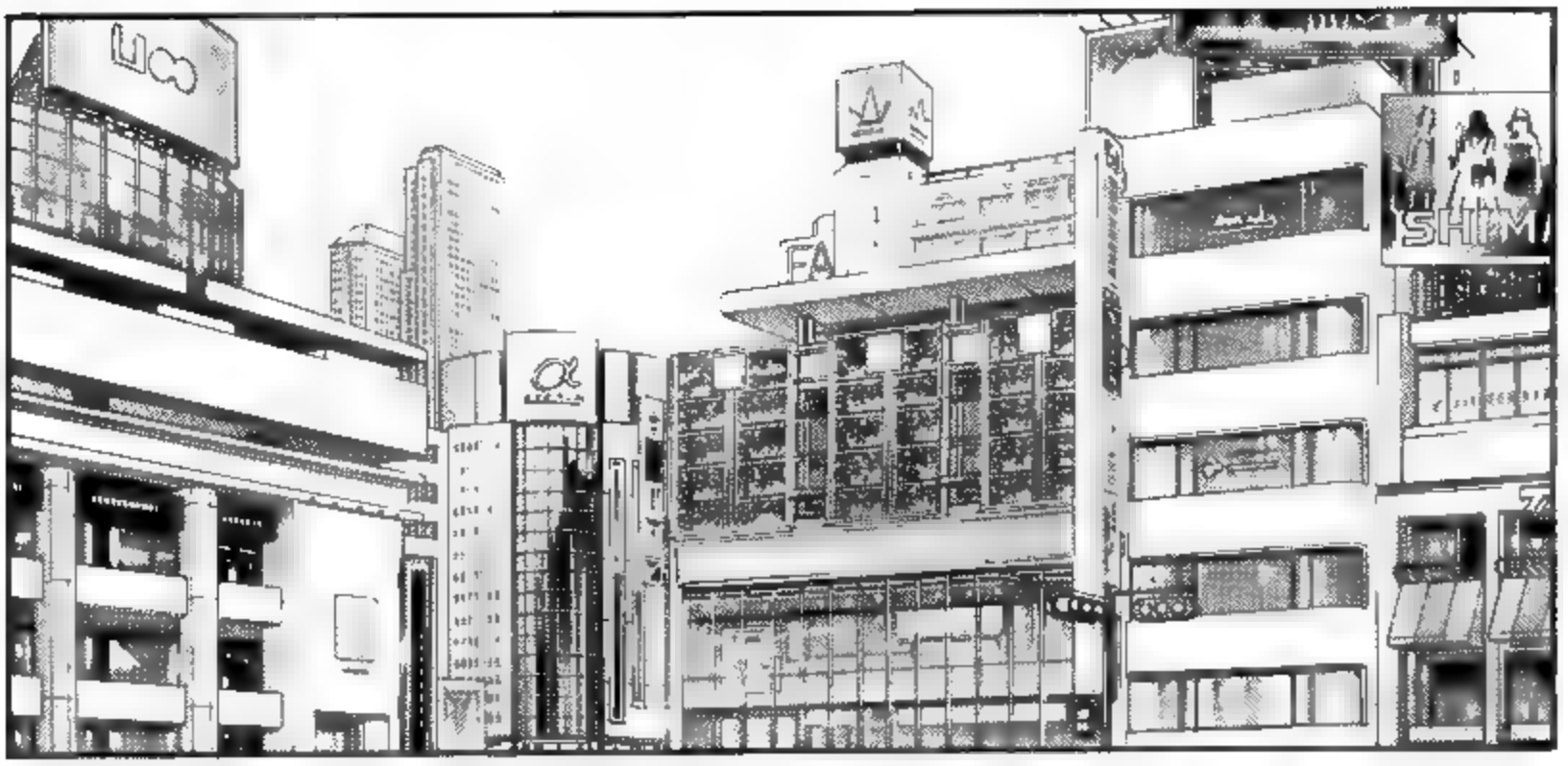
SFX: DOSHA

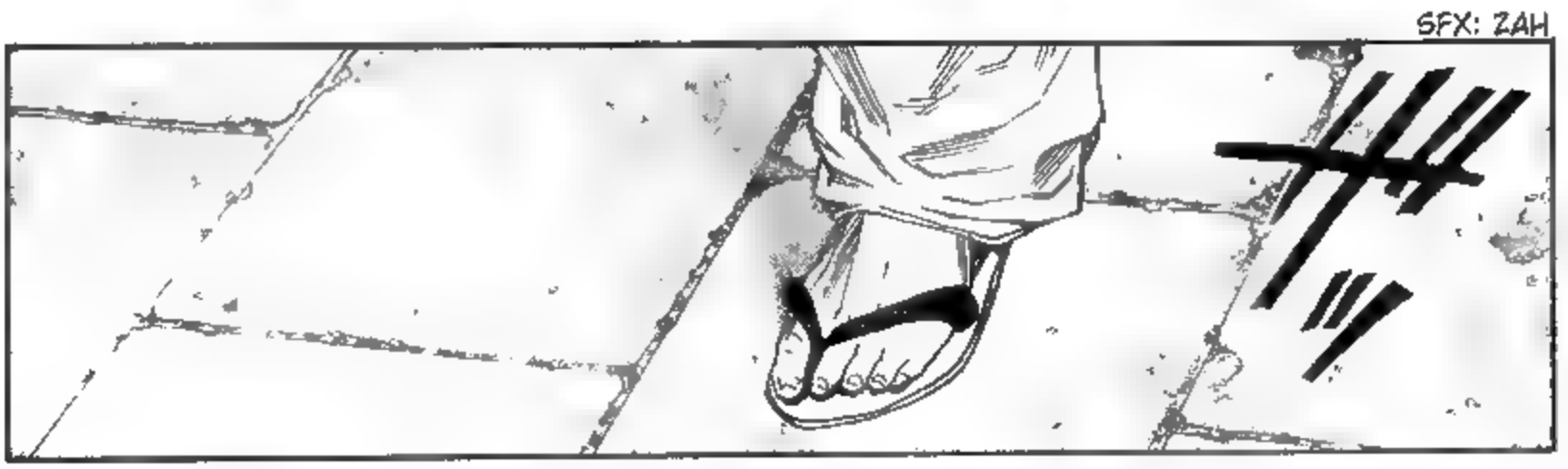
ONLY WHAT !?

...

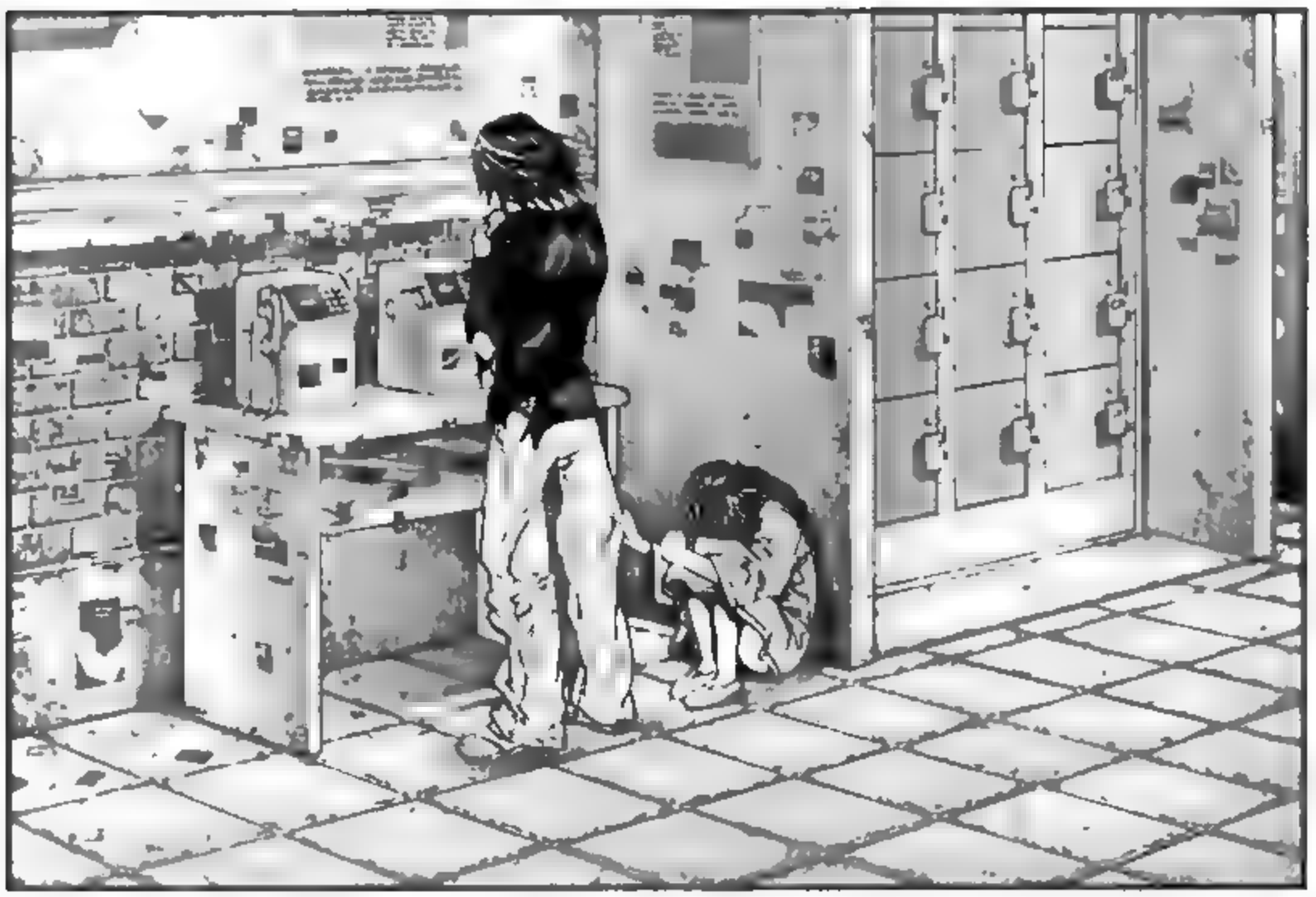
HAITANI. HE'S ACTING INDEPEN-DENTLY AGAIN...

CURSE HIM.


FA
SHIM


SFX: ZAH

CINEMA
TEMBS



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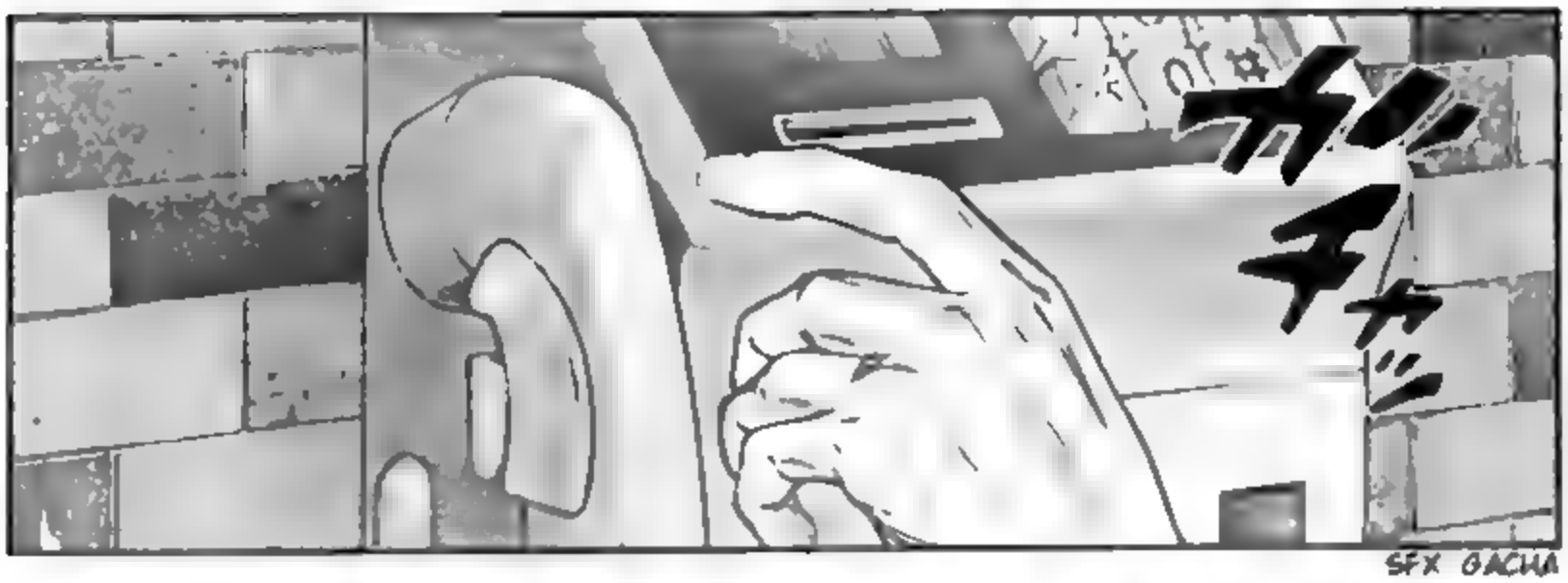
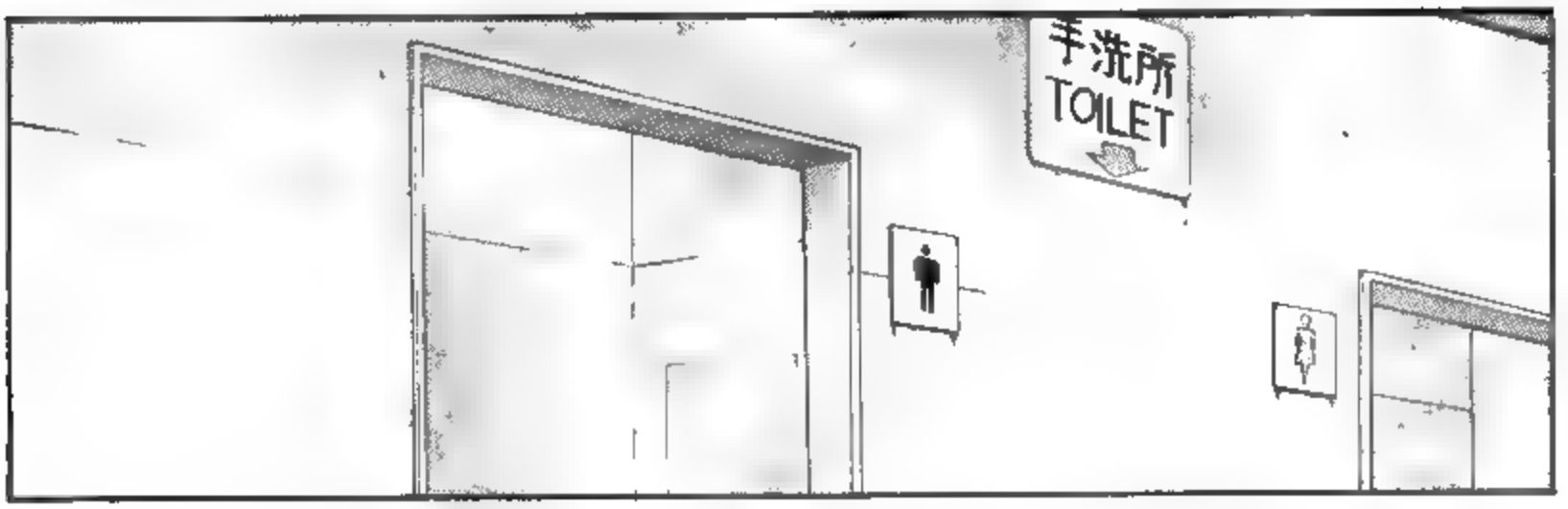
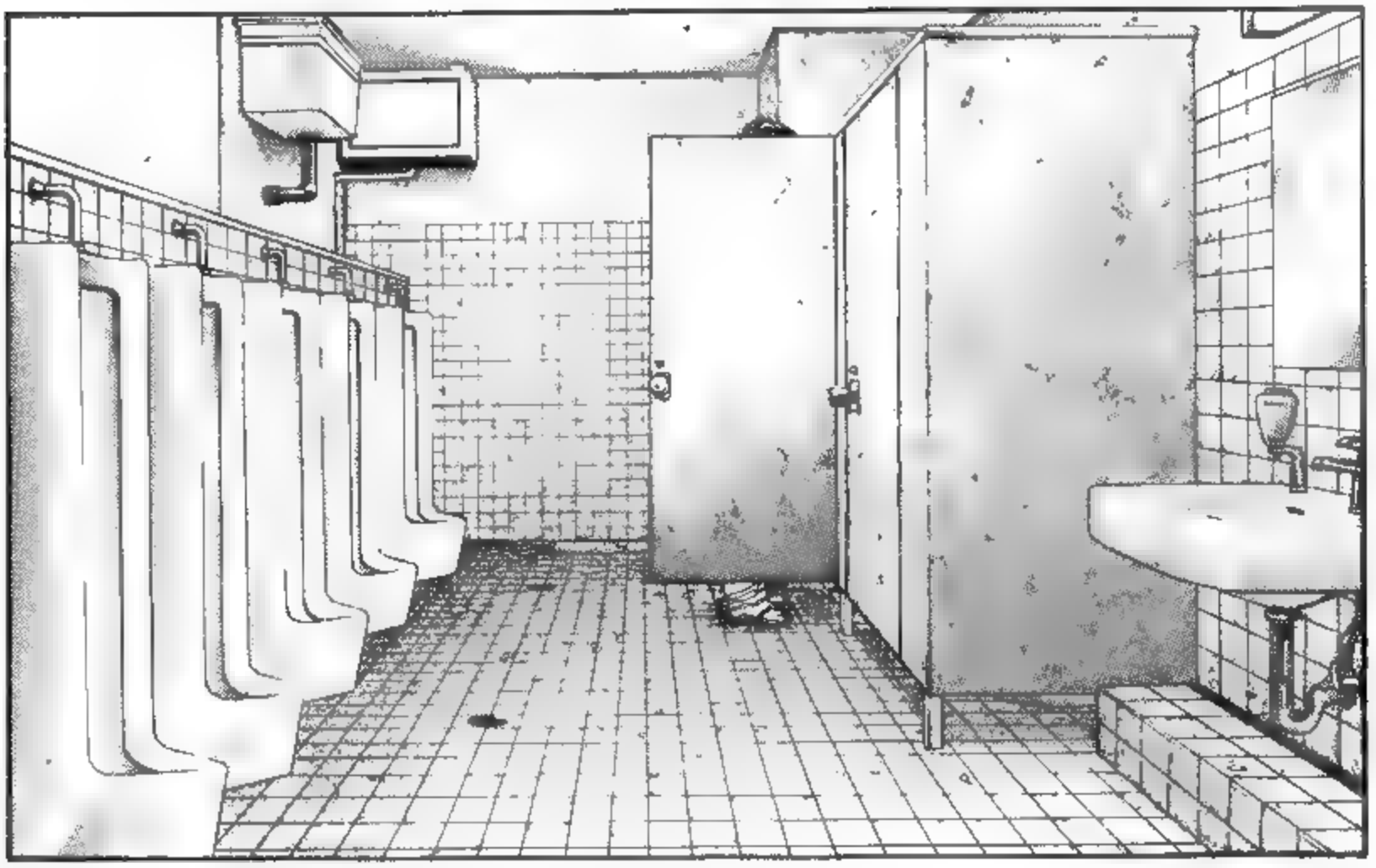
Chapter 139
(WAITING ONE)




手洗所
TOILET



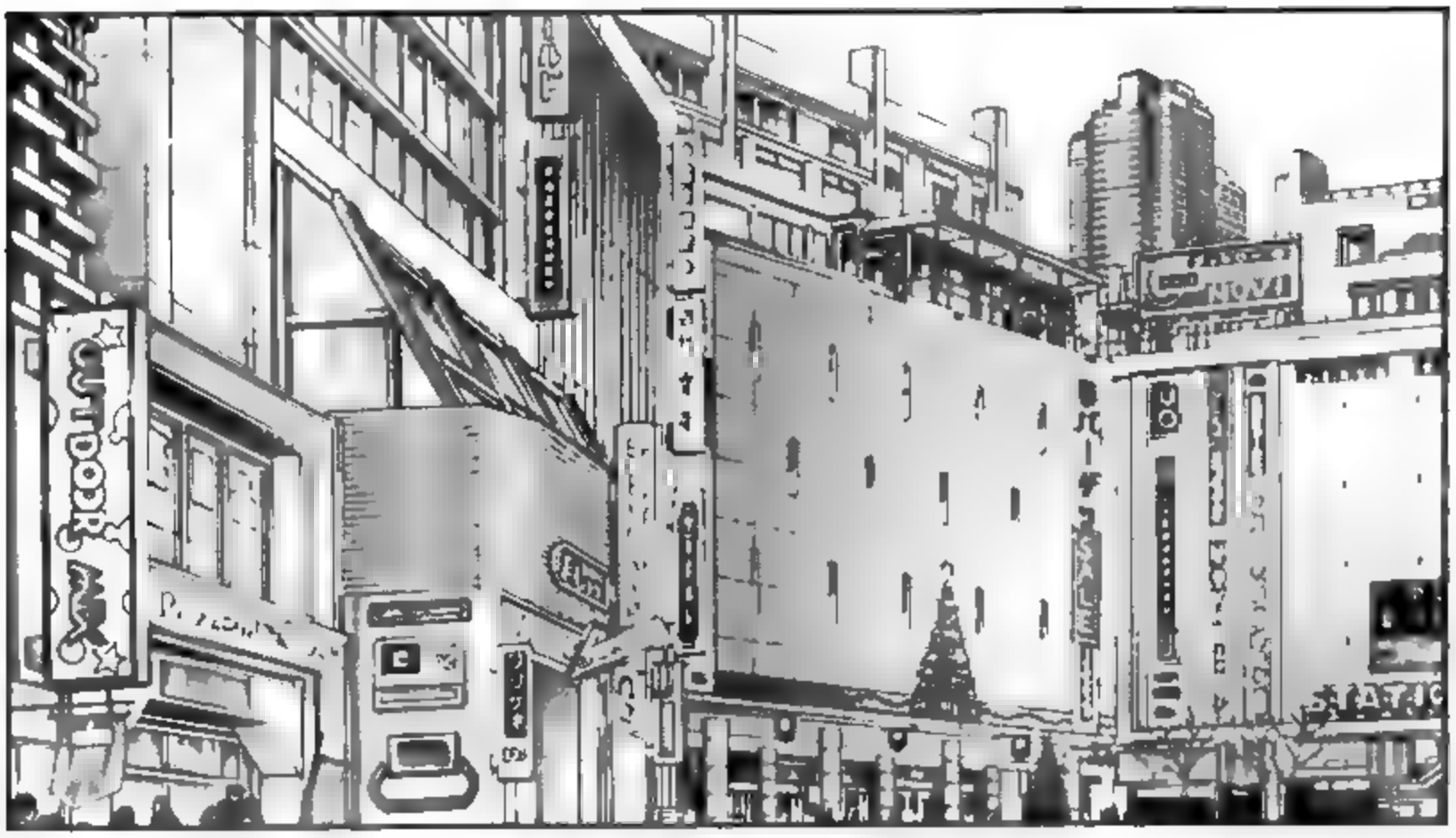
DON'T OPEN THE DOOR, WHATEVER HAPPENS.

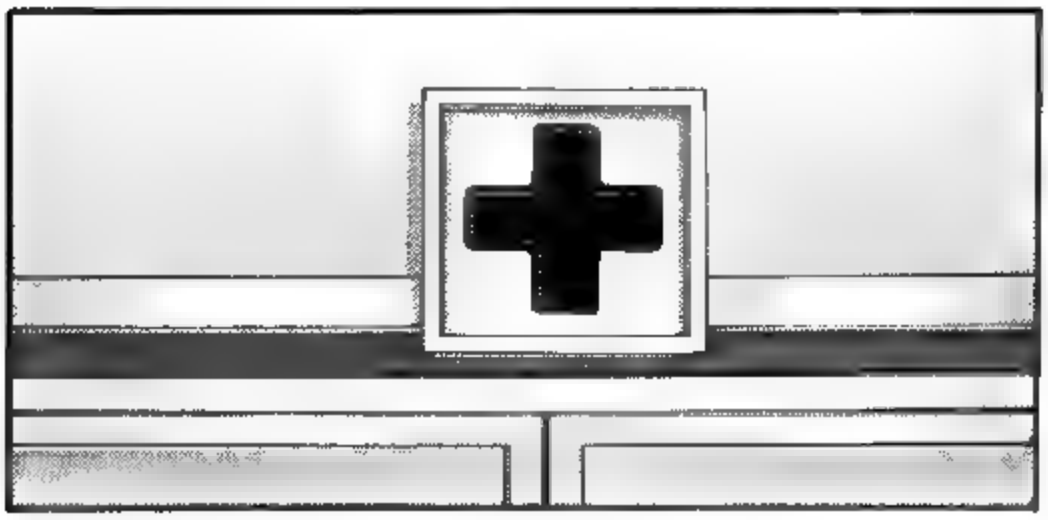
I'LL BE ABOUT AN HOUR... HANG IN THERE, YEAH?

YOU WON'T HAVE TO MEET ANYONE.

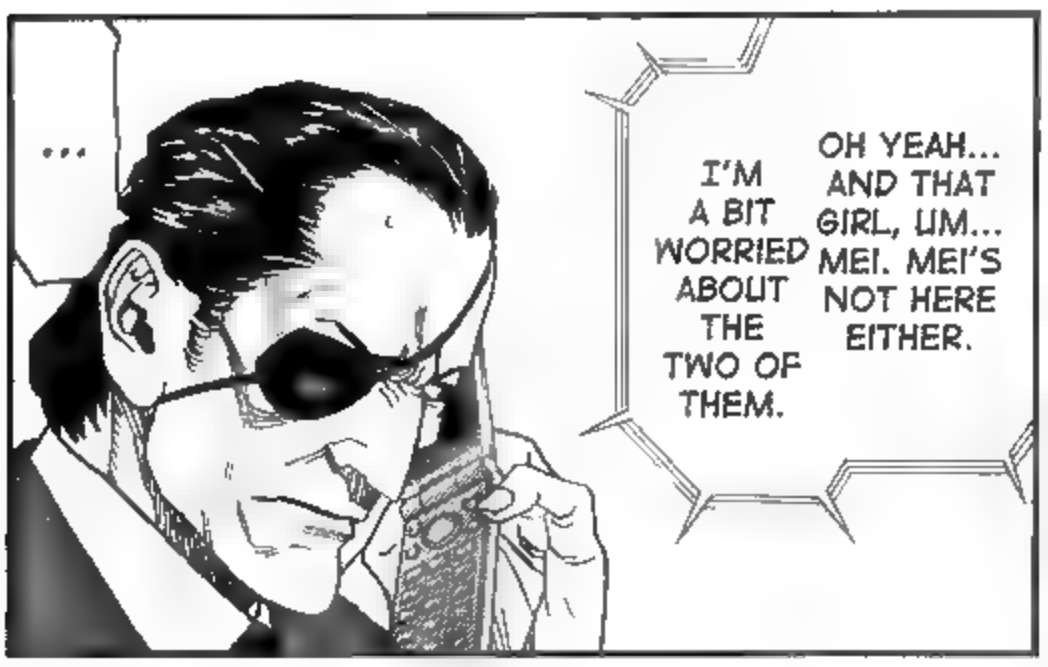
IF YOU LOCK YOURSELF IN THERE,

I'LL BE AS QUICK AS I CAN.


CUTBOOK



AND THERE WAS A CLONE-LIKE CORPSE BUT NO SIGN OF JIN.
OH ...
I'VE JUST BEEN BACK TO THE LAB AND ALL THE GEAR IS TOTALLY WRECKED!


...
I'M A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE TWO OF THEM.
OH YEAH... AND THAT GIRL, UM... MEI. MEI'S NOT HERE EITHER.

AH! YEAH, IT'S FINE! ONLY THE MAIN WING WAS BLOWN UP, SO MY ROOM IN THE SER-VANTS QUARTERS WAS OKAY.

WAS THE BACKUP OF SHIBAKI'S BRAIN DATA ALRIGHT?

UMMM, DUNNO... IF IT WAS POSSIBLE THEN THEY'D HAVE DONE IT I RECKON... I'LL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK INTO SHIBAKI'S BRAIN...

SO THEN CAN WE MAKE A RED STONE?

... ALL THE SERVANTS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR BUT...

!

GOTTA GO.

HUH?

OH, OKAY.

ANY SURVI-VORS?

AL-RIGHT ...

SO,

...

DO YOU HAVE ANY LEADS?

WHO WAS IT THAT ATTACKED THE CHAIR-MAN?

YOU DON'T KNOW?

SHOULDN'T YOU TRANSFER THE CASE TO SOME BETTER POLICE-MEN?

... YOU'RE USE-LESS!

DON'T ACT SO BIG YOU LITTLE PISS-ANT.

WE AIN'T NO FUCKING POLICE. CAN'T YOU TELL FROM LOOKING?

SFX: ZAH

WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE TO SOMEONE YOU JUST MET? HUH?

...

THEN ...
WHO ARE YOU?

BLACK SUITS A AND B.

...
YEAH! GOT A PROB-LEM WITH THAT!?

HUH?

SFX: GA GA

FUCK'S SAKE.

THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING.

ISN'T IT?

SFX: KOKU

AH... THANK GOD...

THEY SAY HE'S STABLE NOW.

WHAT'S HIS CONDI-TION?

!

WHY DID EVOL ATTACK THE MANSION?
WHAT'S THE CONNECTION TO AWAK-ENING ZET?

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU AND WHAT YOU DO FROM GRANDFATHER. CALM DOWN. I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE...

SO ...
IS...
KONOHA AL-RIGHT?

BUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE? IS THE REST OF THE FAMILY UNHURT?

AS INSTRUCTED, NOW STANDING BY ON THE HILL BEHIND THE MANSION!

RO-GER THAT!

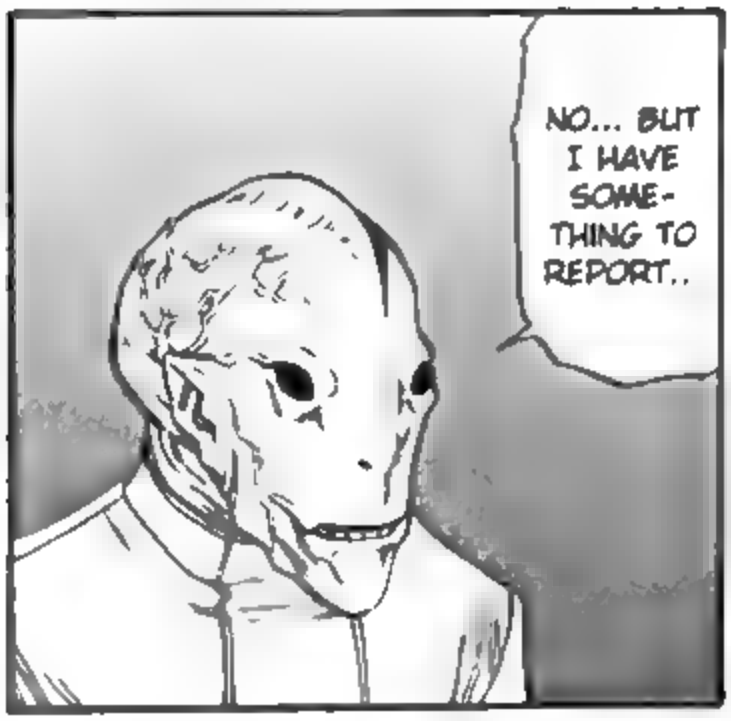
WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

SFX: GOGOGO

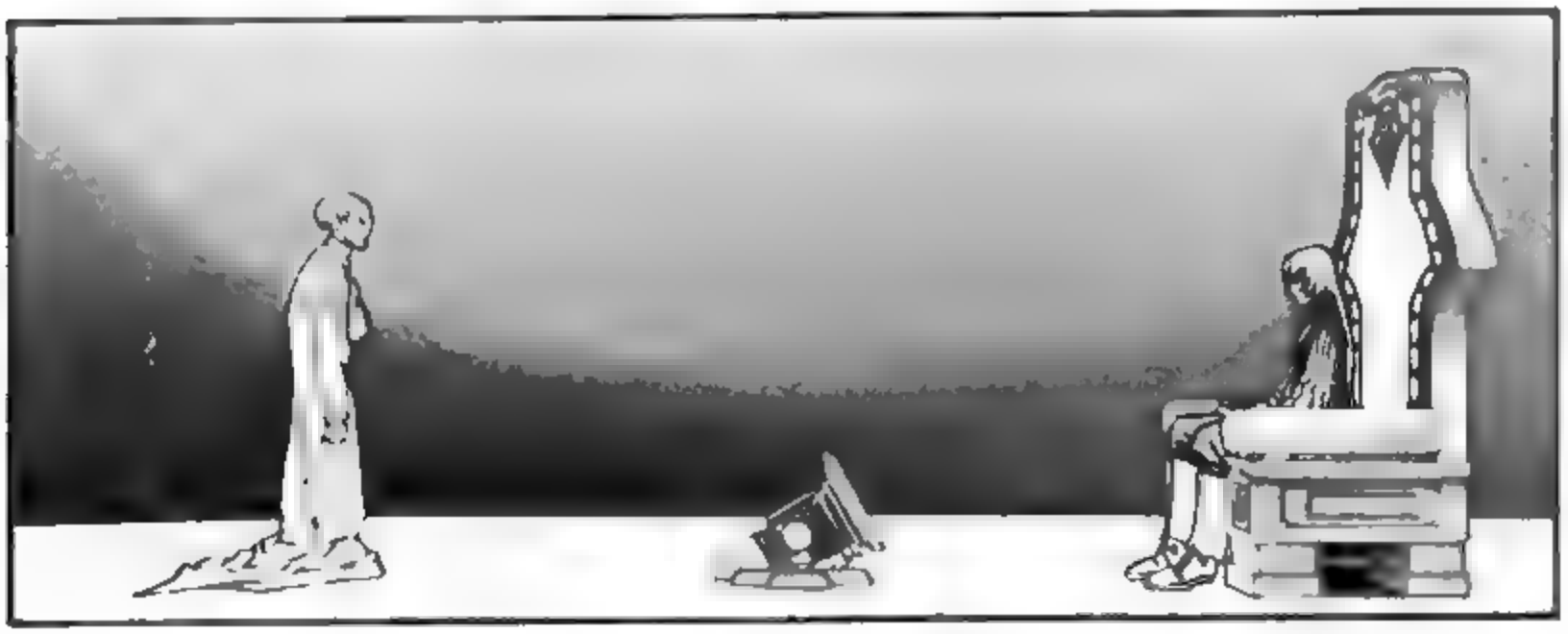
SFX: DODO

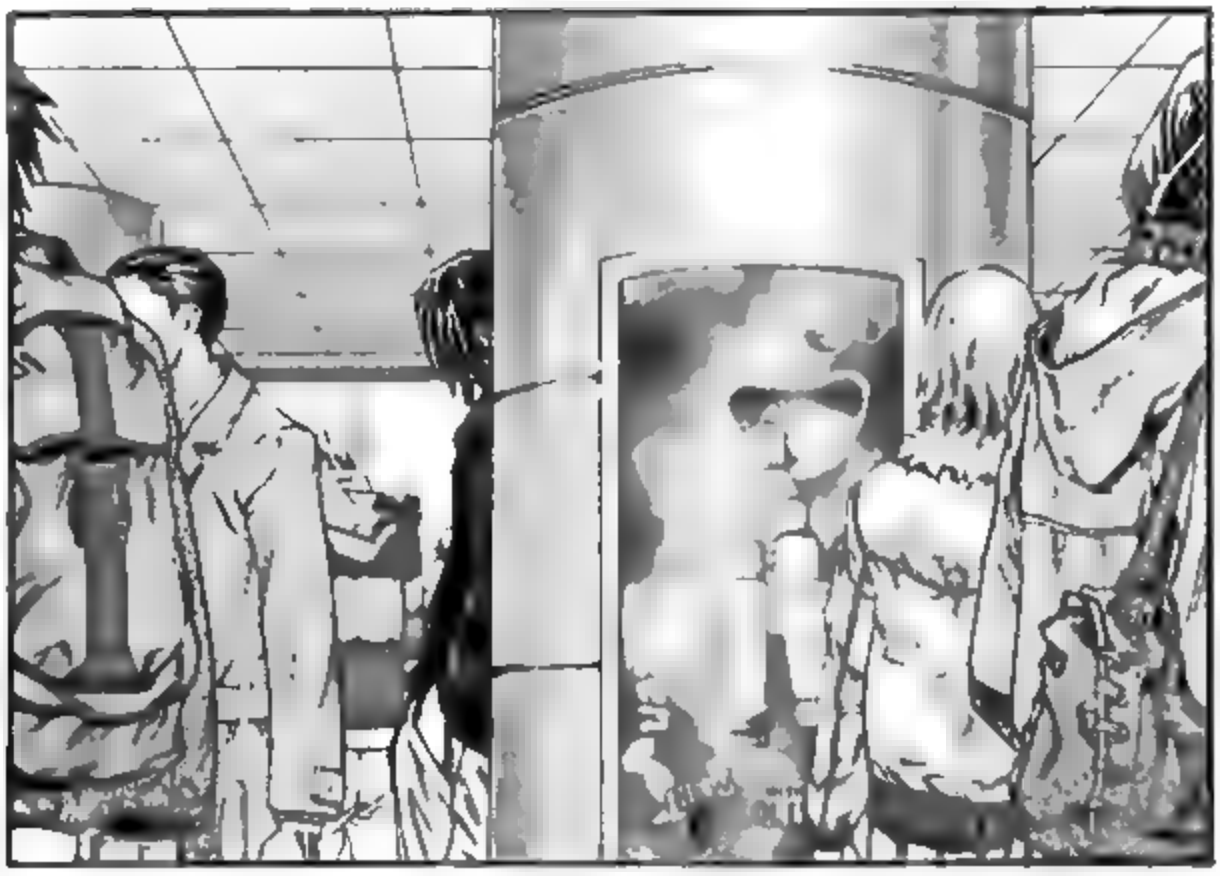
...NO.

UNFOR-
TUNATE-
LY...


NO... BUT I HAVE SOME-THING TO REPORT..

THAT WAS QUICK. IS THE STAKE OF AWAKENING COMPLETE?





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YOU'VE REALLY GROWN!

SHE STILL HASN'T HAD IT FIXED...

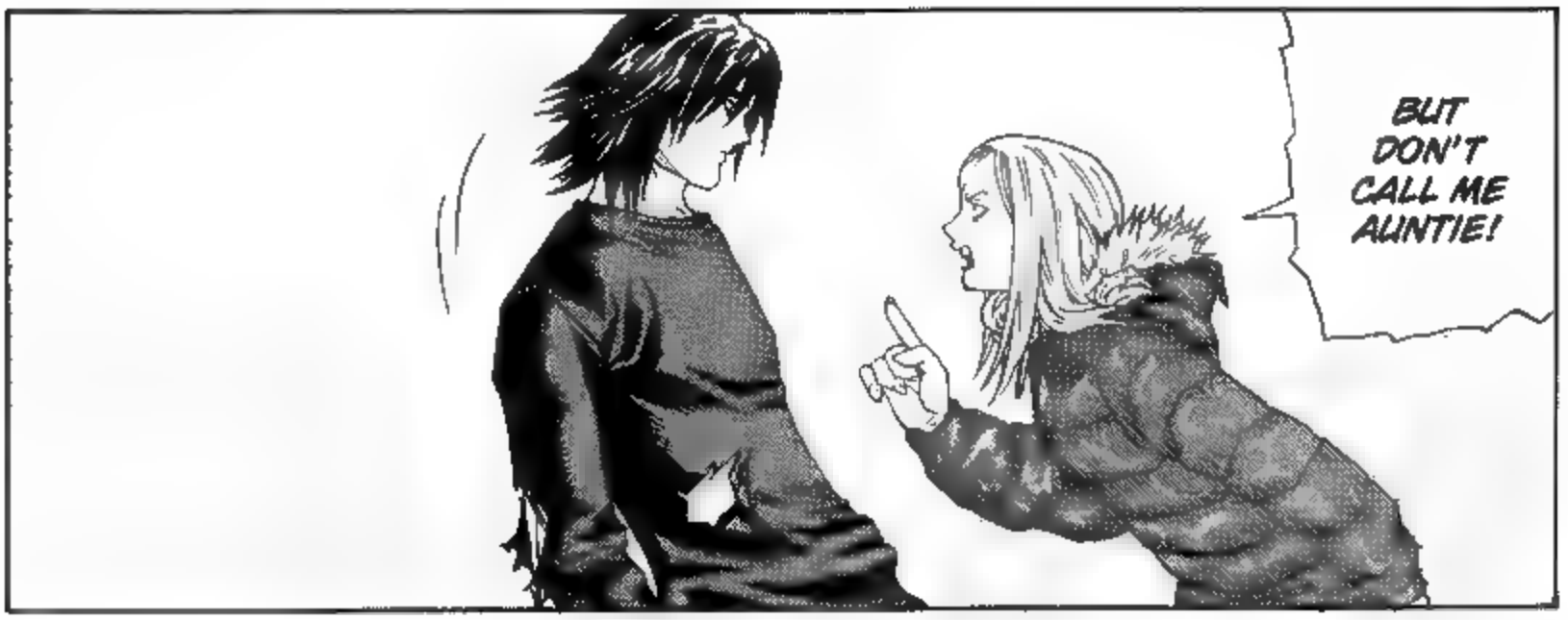
THE SCAR ON HER FACE...

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, AUNTIE.

THAT'S ME, THE GENUINE article.

SFX: DON

WELL, WELL. WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A SWEET TALKER!?


BUT DON'T CALL ME AUNTIE!

GOH
THE HELL YOU SAY?

SURE THING, AUNTIE.

AIN'T NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
AND YOUR HAIR'S ALL OVER THE PLACE! ARE YOU TAKING LIFE SERI-OUSLY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO?

EH? UM...
SO WHY ARE YOU WEARING SUCH BEAT UP CLOTHES?
YOU STILL A NAUGHTY BOY?

MAYBE IT'S TOO SOON ... TO GIVE YOU BACK THIS STUFF?
JEEZ ...
GROW UP ALREADY, WON'T YOU?
AS BIG AS YOUR BODY'S GOTTEN, YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID INSIDE.

Chapter 140
(LINKS)

SO WHAT TO DO NOW?

IT'LL BE HARD TO FIND WORK WITH THIS SCAR.

IT'S A PART OF ME NOW.

BUT IT'S FINE. I'LL KEEP IT WITH ME FOREVER.

HMM, I DUNNO.

IF WE HAD THE MONEY, I GUESS THEY COULD.

CAN'T THEY FIX IT?

IT FEELS LIKE YOU'D DISAPPEAR ALONG WITH IT...

IF I GOT RID OF THIS SCAR...

I'LL BE HERE WITH YOU FOREVER.

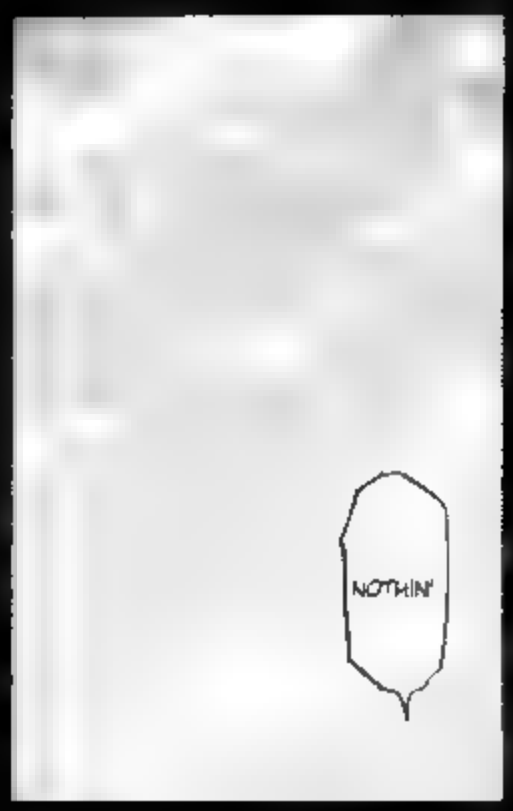
I WON'T DISAP-PEAR

CRYSTAL
PAWN SHOP
HAIR SALON

IORITA
CRYSTAL
CLOCKS
JEWELRY
BAGS
OTHERS
PAWN SHOP

IF THAT'S ALL THEY PAY THEN I'LL HAVE TO SELL ALL MY BRANDED STUFF.
PAWN SHOP

WHAT?
DAMN.


NOTHIN'

WHAT'S UP?

20,000'S A LOT.

AND FOR 20,000 YEN!? ARE YOU STUPID!?

YOU SOLD YOUR GRANDPA'S KEEPSAKE! HOW COULD YOU SELL SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT!?

YOU DID WHAT!?

AND IF YOU DON'T TREASURE IT THEN IT'LL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU!

THEY SAY EVERYTHING GOES IN CIRCLES. YOUR GRANDPA WANTED YOU TO HAVE THAT PENDANT!

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TELL ME OFF AGAIN.

JUST THINKING HOW LONG IT'S BEEN...

SFX: GASA

BECAUSE IT'S LIKE LOSING MY LINK TO YOU.

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO RETURN THIS STUFF.

HEH.

STILL CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS ...

I...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.

AND ON THAT NOTE,

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK!

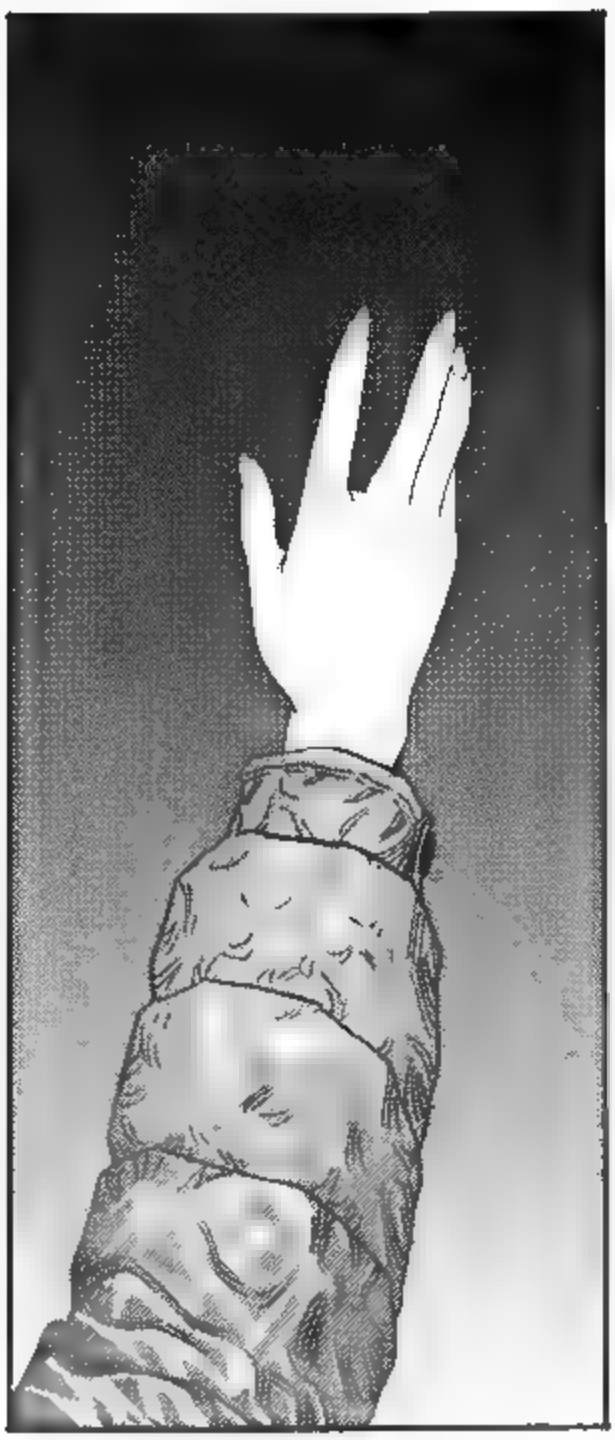
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!

THANK YOU!

THEY'LL BE MAD IF THEY SPOT US HERE.

I PROMISED NOT TO SEE YOU.

MO-
THER.



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH...

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE IN MY HEART...

EVEN IF WE CAN'T MEET?

THE RED STONE... THAT... BEAUTIFUL ...

PRE-CIOUS JEWEL ...

REPORT?

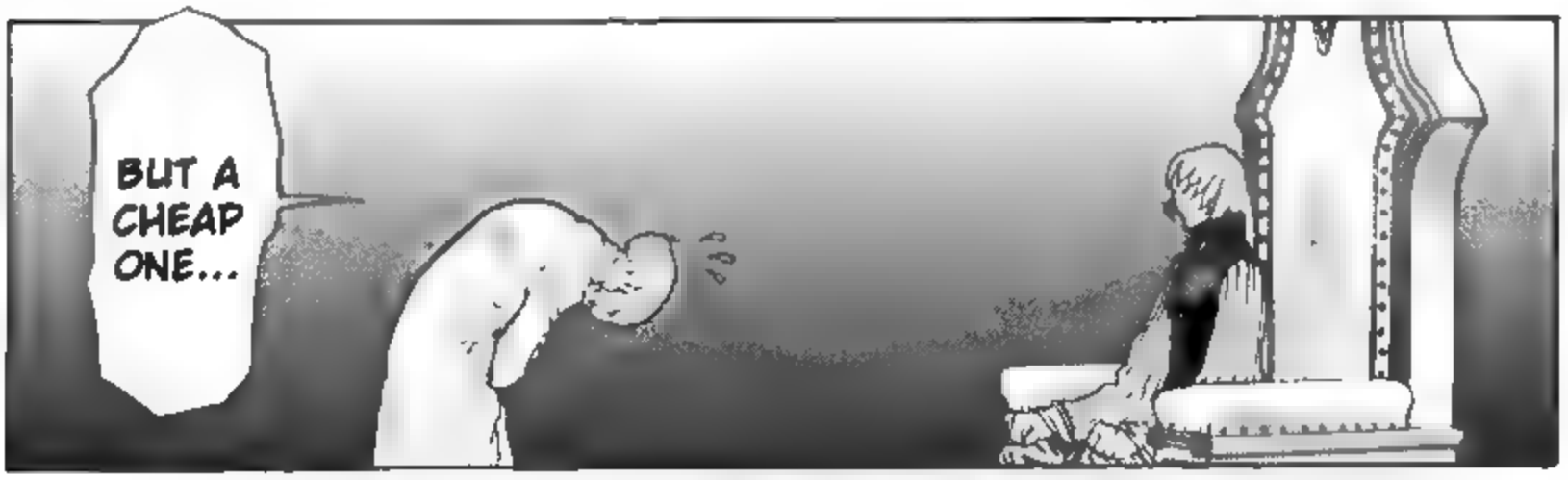
SPIT IT OUT.

IT'S REAL.

A- ACTU-ALLY...

IT'S A REAL RUBY...
NO...

?
OF COURSE IT IS.


BUT A CHEAP ONE...

THANKS TO YOU, I DREW OUT THE BAD GUYS.

AUNTIE...

ばっ

!

THAT BASTARD WAS SELLING IT FOR TEN TIMES WHAT HE PAID YOU!

SFX: BAH

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, AUNTIE?

IS IT NORMAL TO PAY AN ADJUST-MENT FEE?

SFX: NYA

BUT, ADJUST-MENT FEE?

SORRY AUNTIE ... ...

DID I LOSE YOU MONEY?

THAT ONE'S FOR...

EVERY-DAY USE.

SFX: SU

THAT WAY YOU CAN'T SELL OR LOSE IT OR ANYTHING.

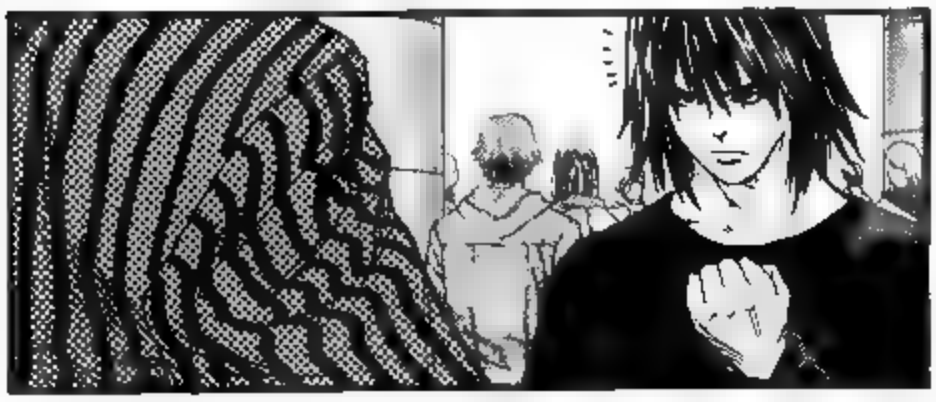
I'LL PUT IT SOME-WHERE SAFE.

VOILA.

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST WEAR THAT ONE AT ALL TIMES.

IT LINKS YOU TO YOUR GRANDPA.



I'LL GIVE BACK THE ORIGINAL WHEN YOU'RE A GROWN UP.

YO.

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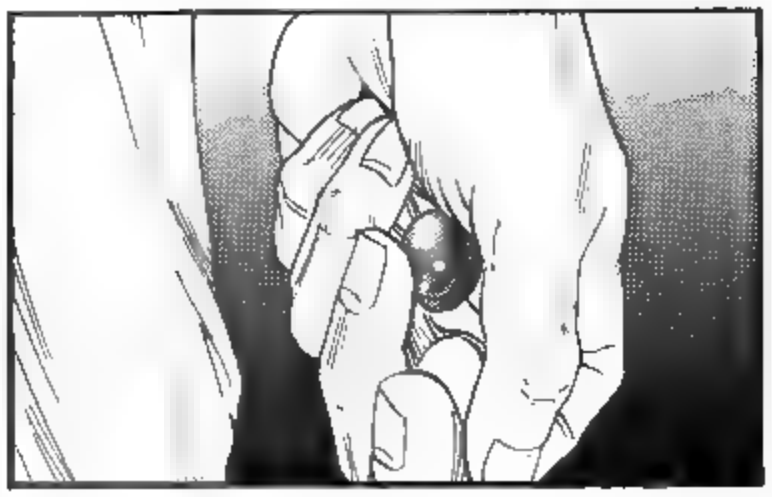
SFX. GYU



Chapter 141
(CARDS)

WHY, WHY IS HE HERE? HOW DID HE SEE THROUGH THE PLAN!? DID HE SEE ME WITH AUNTIE!?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT HAITANI?

SFX: DOH DOH DOH DOH

CROWDS.

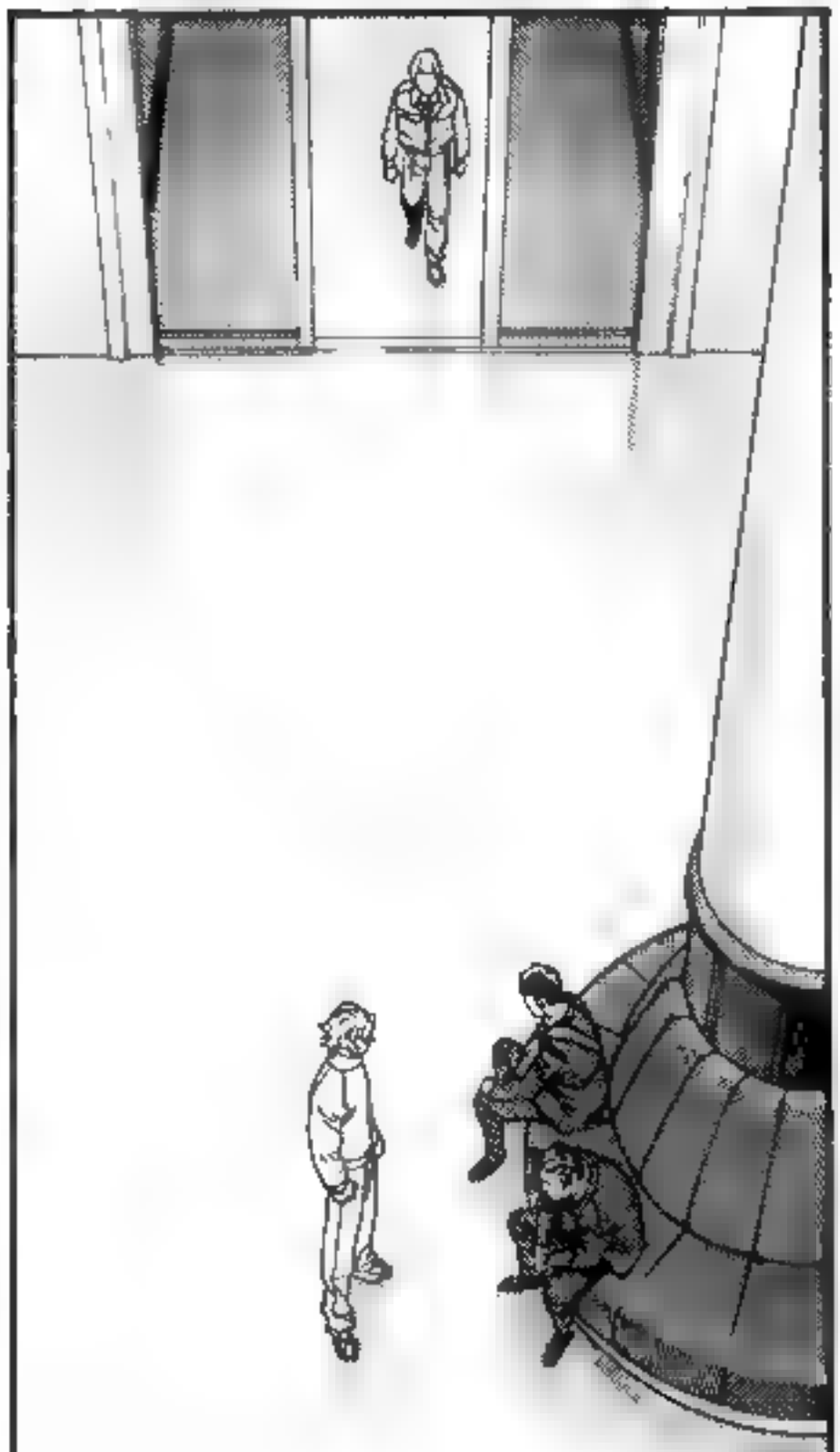
SO NOISY.

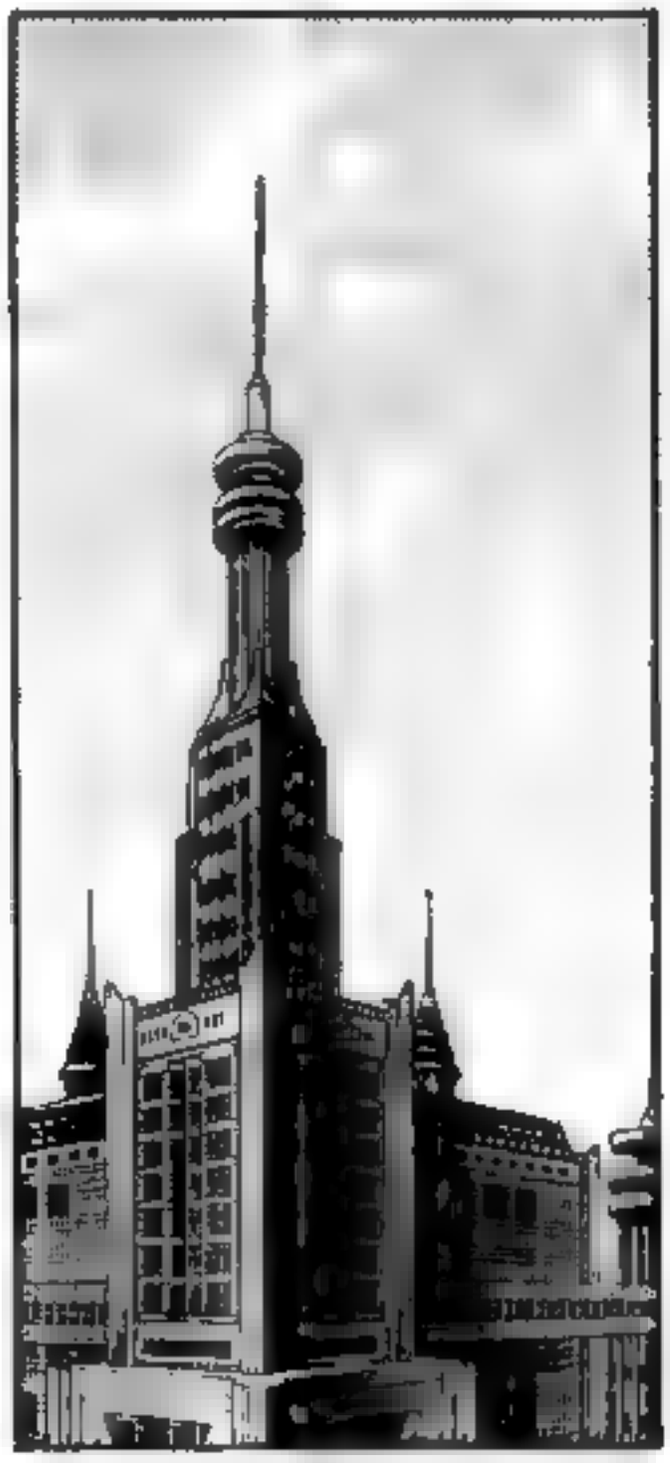
SO IT ANNOYS ME A BIT.

ME, I USUALLY STICK TO QUIET PLACES.

SFX: GOKUN

SFX: SAH





IT'S DIFFERENT TO THE PLAYERS YOU'VE FOUGHT BEFORE...

BUT THE READING IS... FAINTER THAN USUAL.

WE'VE DETECTED A PLAYER'S ENERGY SIGNATURE.

...

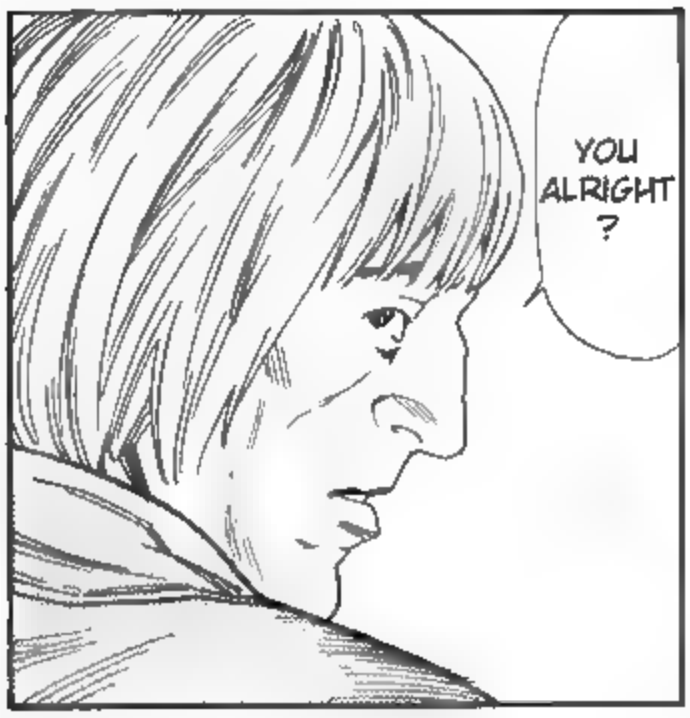
ICHIRO.

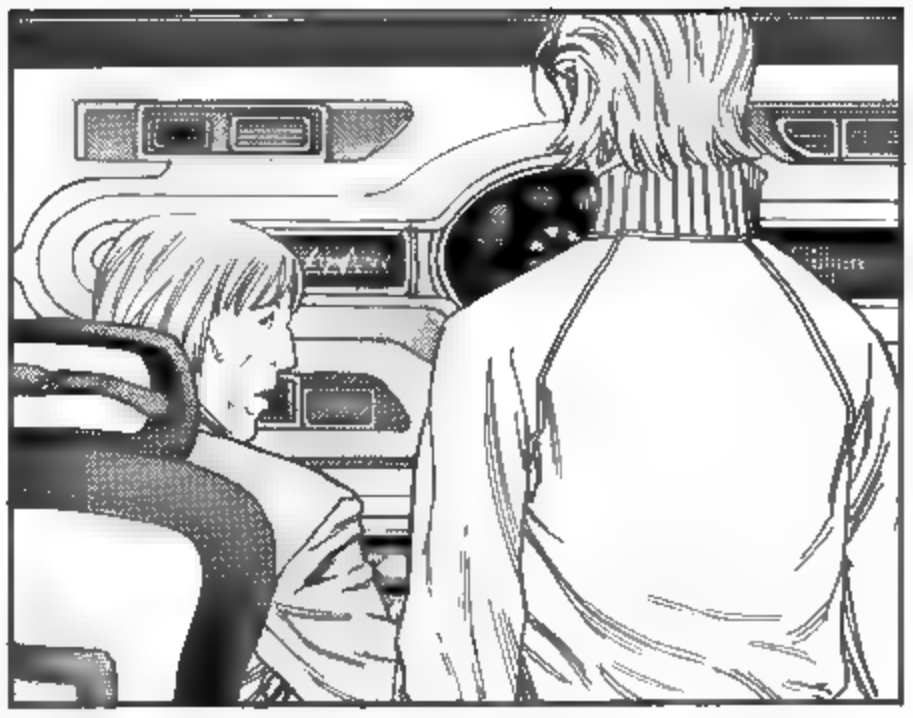
ICHIRO

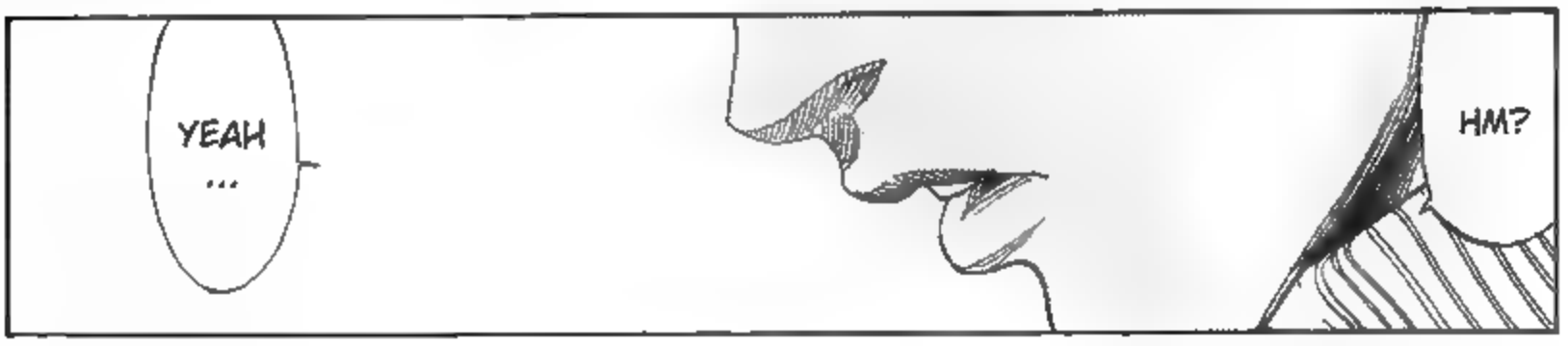
IT'S THE SAME TYPE AS...

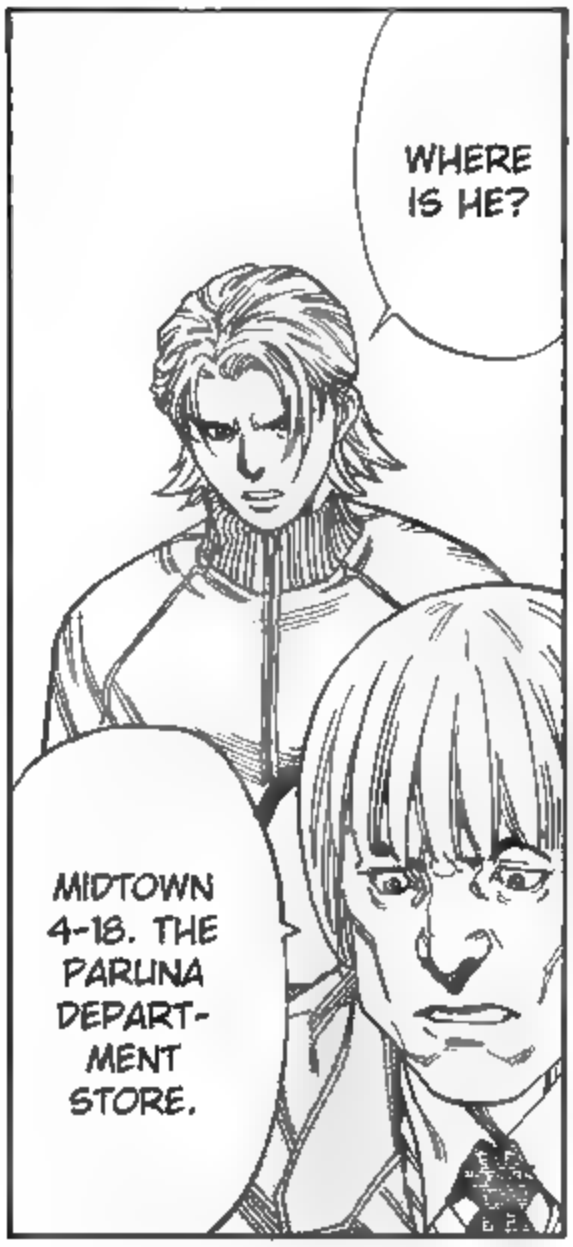
SO,

I LOOKED INTO IT.

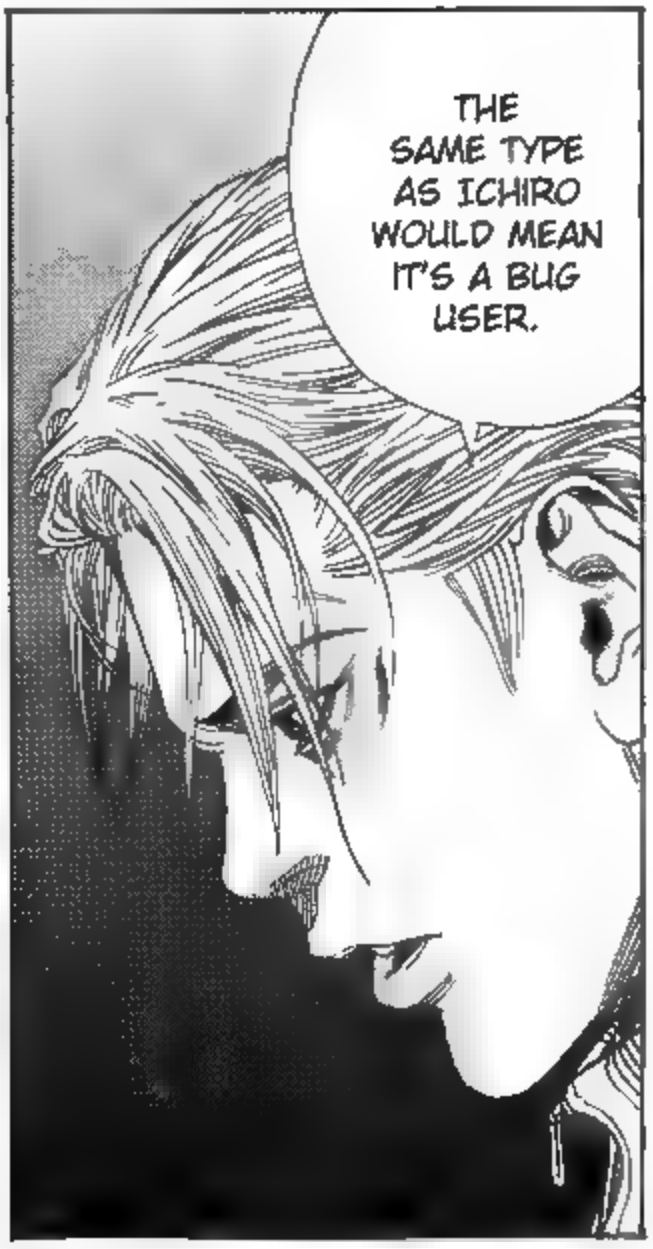

YOU ALRIGHT ?




YEAH ...
HM?


WHERE IS HE?
MIDTOWN 4-18. THE PARUNA DEPART-MENT STORE.

EVOL ARE PLOTTING SOMETHING.


THE SAME TYPE AS ICHIRO WOULD MEAN IT'S A BUG USER.

LET ME COME ALONG AND WE CAN TAKE THE VAN!

YEAH!

WE HAVEN'T COME UP WITH A STRATEGY FOR GOING PUBLIC WITH ALFASZ YET, SO IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL NOW, THEN WE'LL JEOPARDIZE OUR FUTURE!

NOT TO SOME-WHERE SO CROWDED!

WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO AS ALFASZ!

...

YOU KNOW,

YOU WERE PRETTY SUSPI-CIOUS.

YOUR ATTITUDE WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE STONE, I MEAN.

YOU SAID "I LOST IT" WITH A STRANGE KINDA IMPATIENCE.

WHICH MEANS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
RIGHT... SO HE WASN'T SEEING THROUGH ME. HE WAS WATCHING! THE CLONES AREN'T HIS ONLY EYES THEN...

THAT LITTLE MELODRAMA EXPLAINED IT THOUGH.

YOU BAS-TARD!
SFX: GIRI

YOU DIDN'T WANT YOUR LOVED ONES GETTING CAUGHT UP IN THINGS.

HOSTAGE TAKING AND COERCION! WHY SO FUCKING INDIRECT!?

ONE OF THEM IS HERE AMONG THE CROWD.

I'M ALREADY HOLDING ALL THE CARDS.

I DON'T WANT TO INJURE YOU, THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TALKING SO PEACEFULLY.

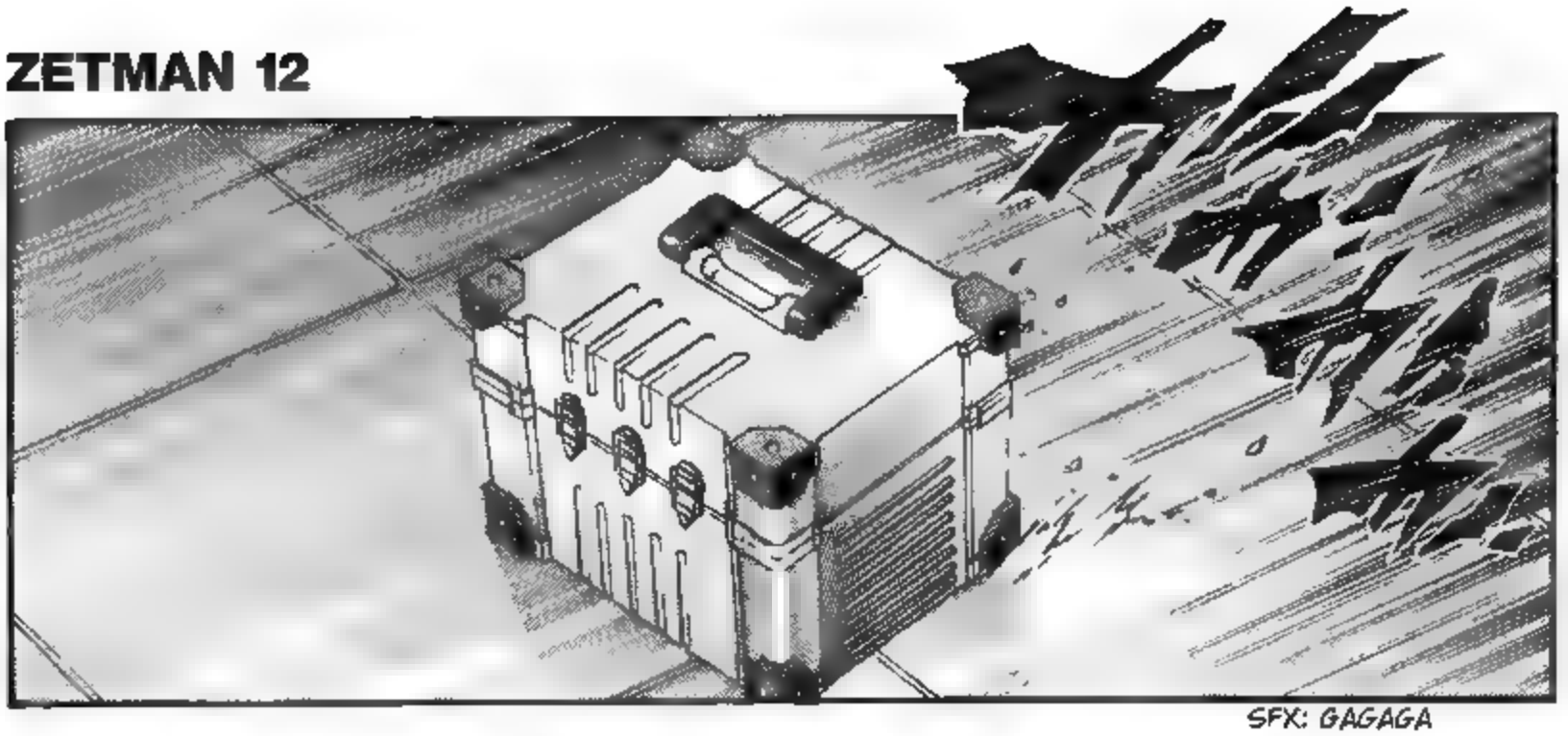
NO CHANCE, THAT'D BE NO FUN.

UH-UH.

...

FIGHT ME RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

JUST COME TAKE IT FROM ME!



SFX: GAGAGA

SFX: KACHA

SFX: BAN

WHO... WHO THE HELL IS THAT!? HOW FAR IS HAITANI WILLING TO GO!?

FUCK YOU!

YOU SEE HOW SERIOUS I AM NOW?

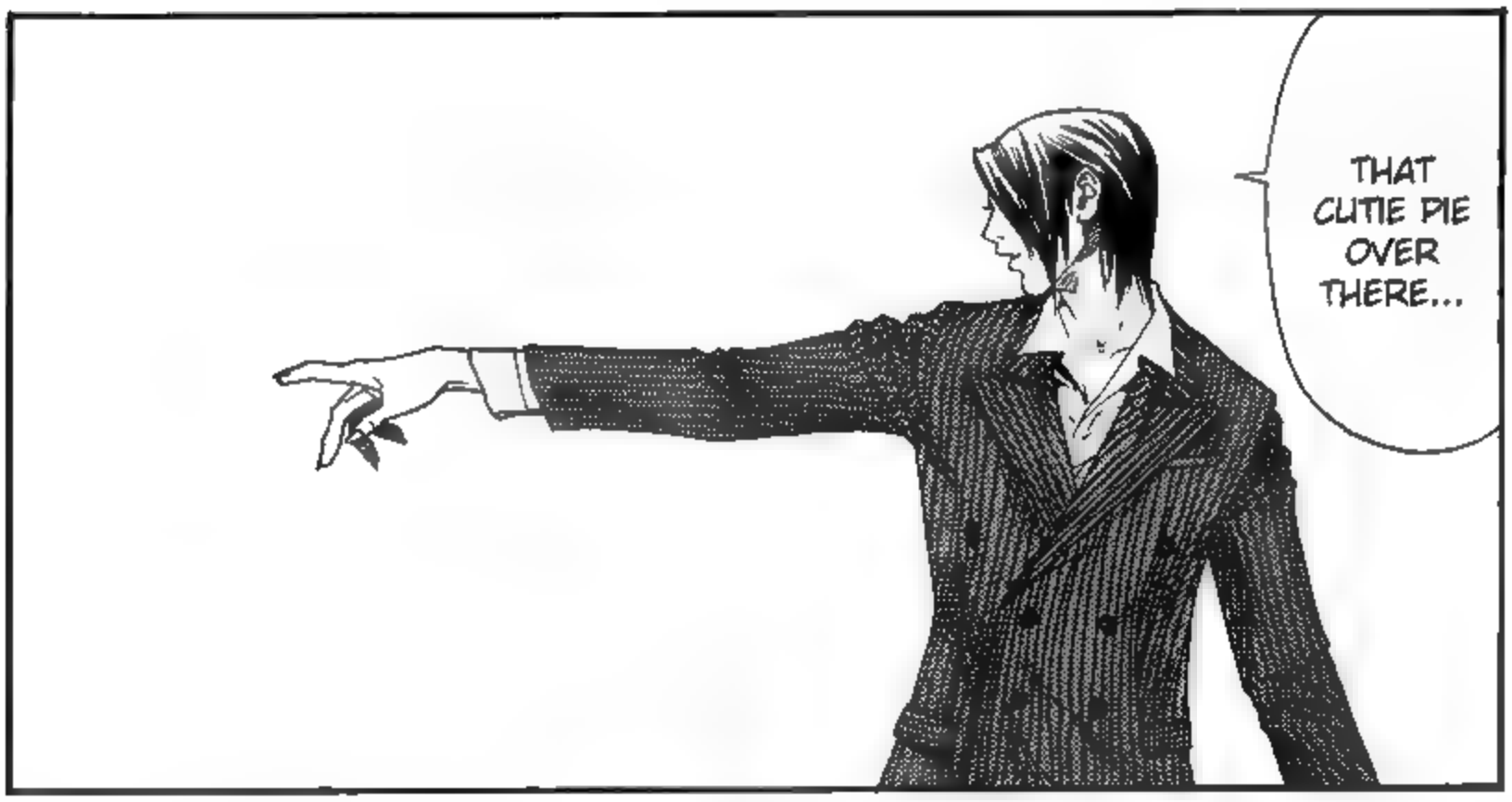
SEE, I'VE PLANNED AHEAD AND PREPARED FOR HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.

I WON'T LAY A FINGER ON YOUR NUMBER ONE DEAREST.
SO RELAX, OK?
HEY, CALM DOWN. I'M NOT THE BAD GUY YOU THINK I AM.

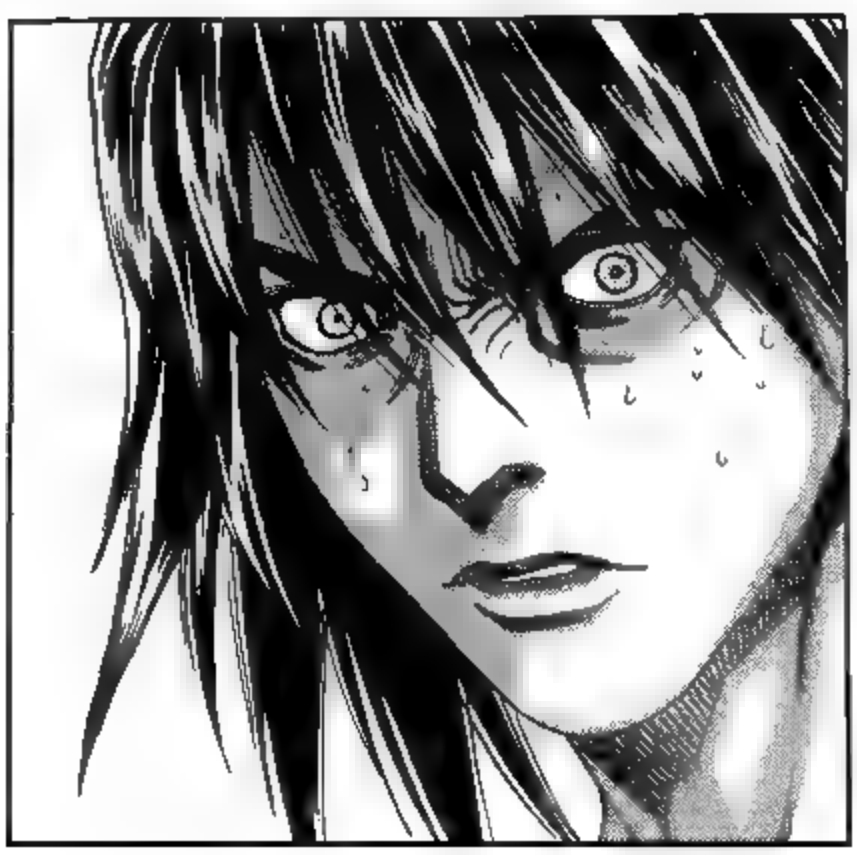
HA.
HA.

FOR EX-AMPLE ...

BUT I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR YOUR OTHER LOVED ONES.


THAT CUTIE PIE OVER THERE...

!



KONOHA!
O.K.O

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S USE-LESS TO RESIST. I'M 120% SURE YOU CAN'T WIN, SO QUIT IT WITH THE ATTITUDE ALREADY.
... IF YOU TOUCH HER THEN YOU'LL LOSE EVERYTHING.

I GUESS SHE DOESN'T SEE THE JOY IN LEADING A NORMAL LIFE, HUH
SHE'S UNSAT-ISFIED WITH HER PARENTS.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM VERY HAPPY ...
FOR TODAY'S OPERATION I FOUND OUT EVERY-THING ABOUT YOU.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND, HANAKO TANAKA, IS FROM AN INCREDIBLY NORMAL MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY.

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THAT'S BECAUSE AMAGI CORP. GOT HER BACK HER REAL SON, RIGHT?

OH, YEAH.

THEN THERE'S AKEMI, FROM A MINUTE AGO. IT'S A REAL PITY ABOUT HER SCAR. BUT EVEN LIVING IN POVERTY SHE SEEMS HAPPY.

SFX. KOTSU KOTSU KOTSU KOTSU

!

HE WAS SUCH A GOOD BOY. THEY REALLY WERE HAPPY TOGETHER.

JUST COUGH IT UP FOR ME, OK?

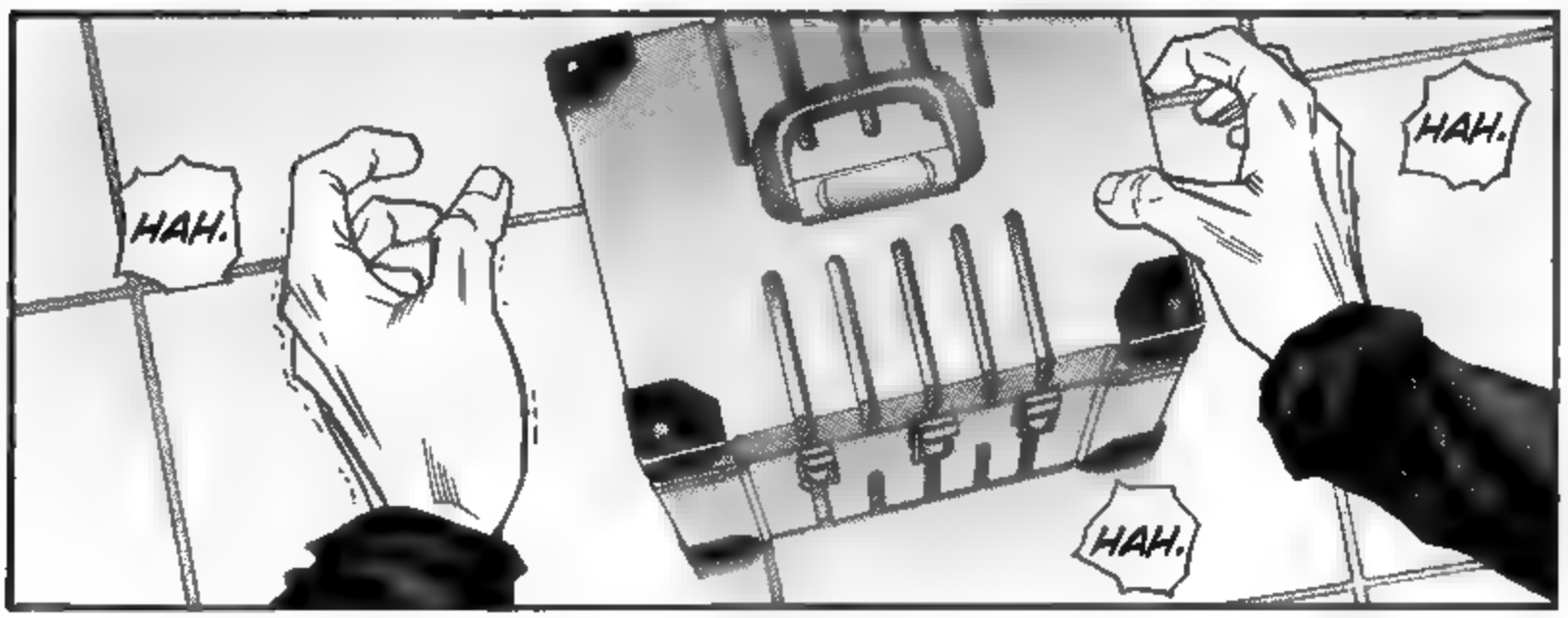
WHAT YOU SWALLOWED.

COME ON, YOU DON'T WANT THE BODY COUNT RISING ANY FURTHER, DO YOU?

YOUR PRECIOUS AKEMI WILL ARRIVE HOME UNHARMED TO FIND HER SON HEADLESS.
HAH.
HAH.
HAH.
TH...
THAT'S...

Chapter 142
(TACTICIAN)

SFX: ZAH



FUCKIN'
HELL...

THAT'S...

JUST
TOO...

CRUEL.

HAH.

HAH.

DON'T SHOUT.
PEOPLE ARE LOOKING.

BUT, HEY.
YOU'RE SURE CRYING A LOT FOR SOMEONE YOU NEVER MET

WITH HER REAL SON OUT OF THE WAY, YOU'LL HAVE HER UNDIVIDED DEVOTION, WON'T YOU?

SFX: GUI

WHATEVER, JUST OPEN YOUR MOUTH. I'LL STICK MY FINGERS IN THERE AND MAKE YOU SICK.

IT'S OBVIOUS YOU KILLED AUNTIE TOO!

SFX: GAH

I'M GONNA FUCKING OBLITERATE YOU!

EVEN IF THIS ONE'LL BE NEXT?

HUUU

IT'S HERE! I'M CERTAIN OF IT!

DOKI DOKI
PLEASE DON'T OVERDO IT!

I'M HEADING OUT!

!

IT'S MOVING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED! AND PASSING THROUGH BUILDINGS... IT MUST BE FLYING .

... IT RAN AWAY ...

WHAT?

KOUGA! THE PLAYER LEFT!

JIN!

I KNOW THAT A PLAYER WAS JUST HERE. DID HE GET YOU?

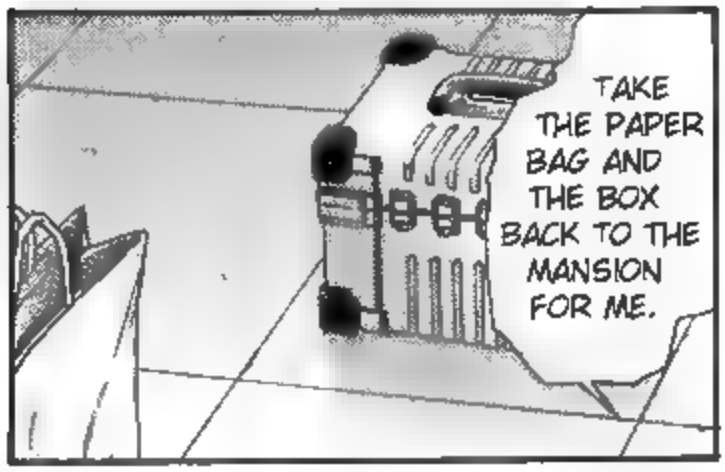
WHAT HAP-PENED?

?

YOU WERE SICK?

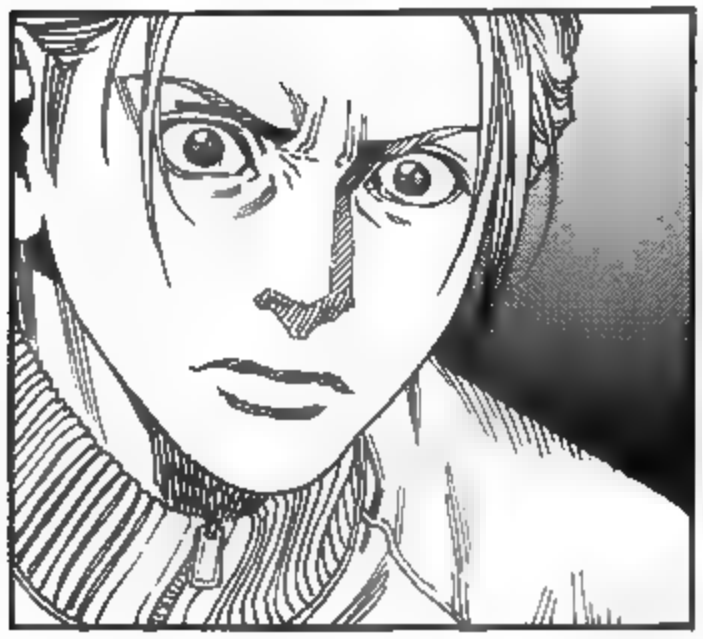
YOU OK?

WHO CARES!
TELL ME WHAT HAP-PENED!
BY CAR.


TAKE THE PAPER BAG AND THE BOX BACK TO THE MANSION FOR ME.

YOU ...
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
...

NO, WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE MANSION ...



?
...
THEN TAKE THEM TO THE CHAIR-MAN...
AND TAKE HER WITH YOU TOO.

!

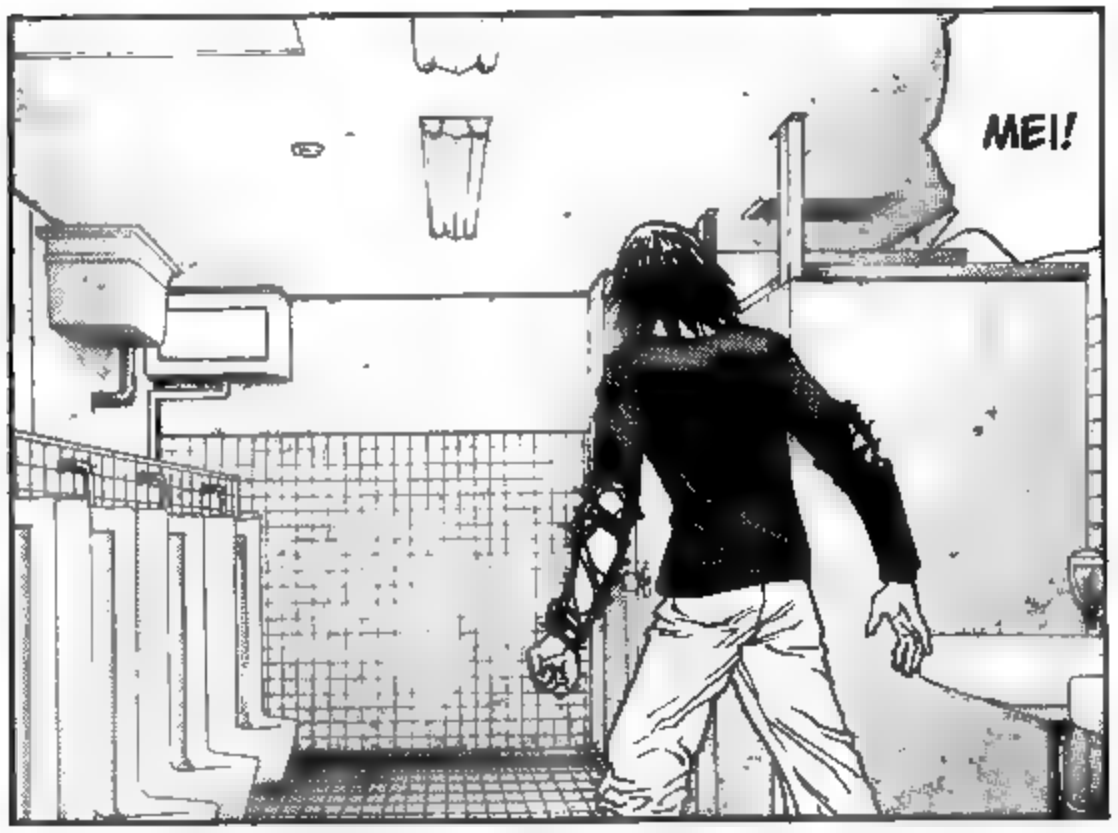
SFX: ZAH

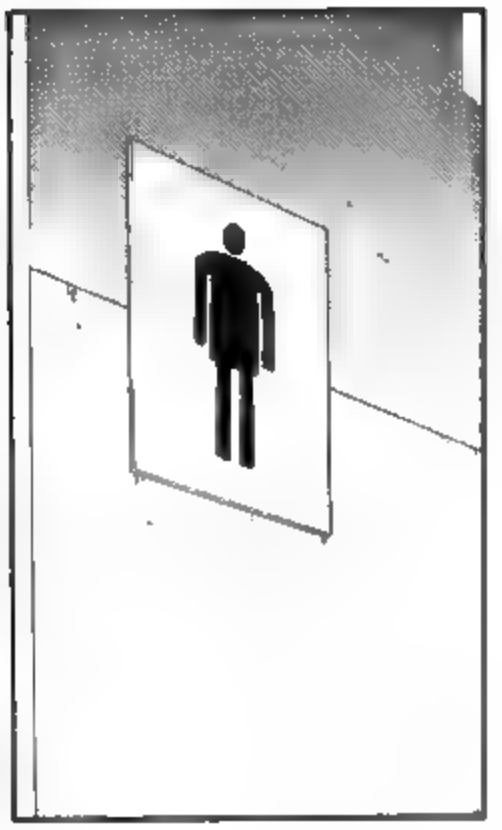
HEY, WAIT!

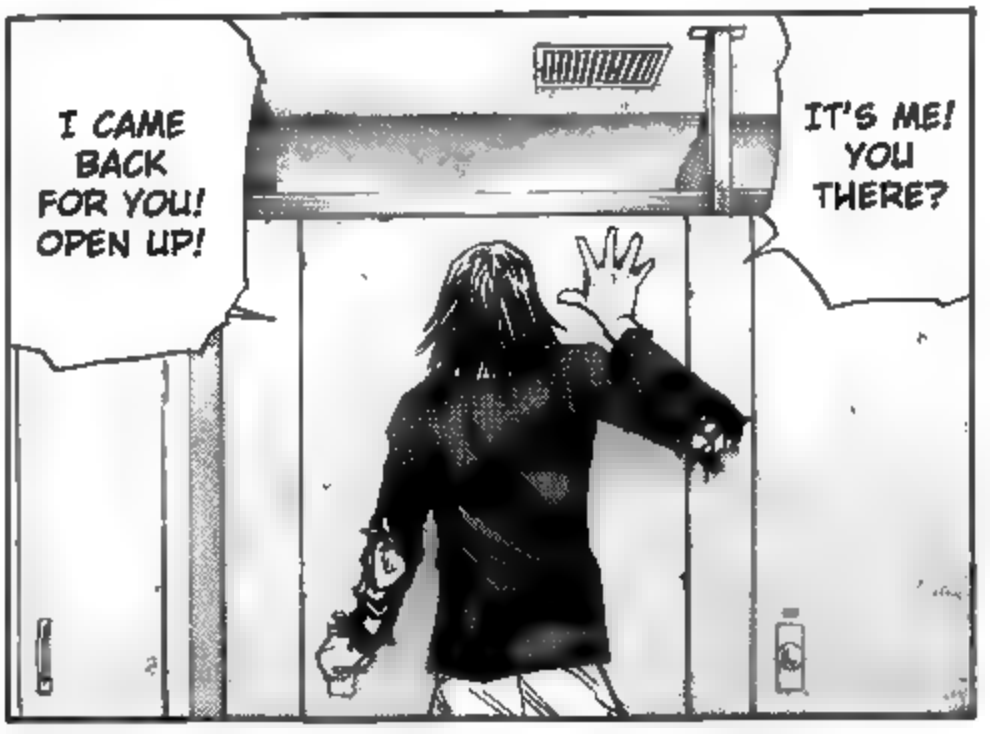
KONOHA?

...

HEY!
JIN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
バーゲン
SALE
NOVI


MEI!




I CAME BACK FOR YOU! OPEN UP!
IT'S ME! YOU THERE?

SFX: KII

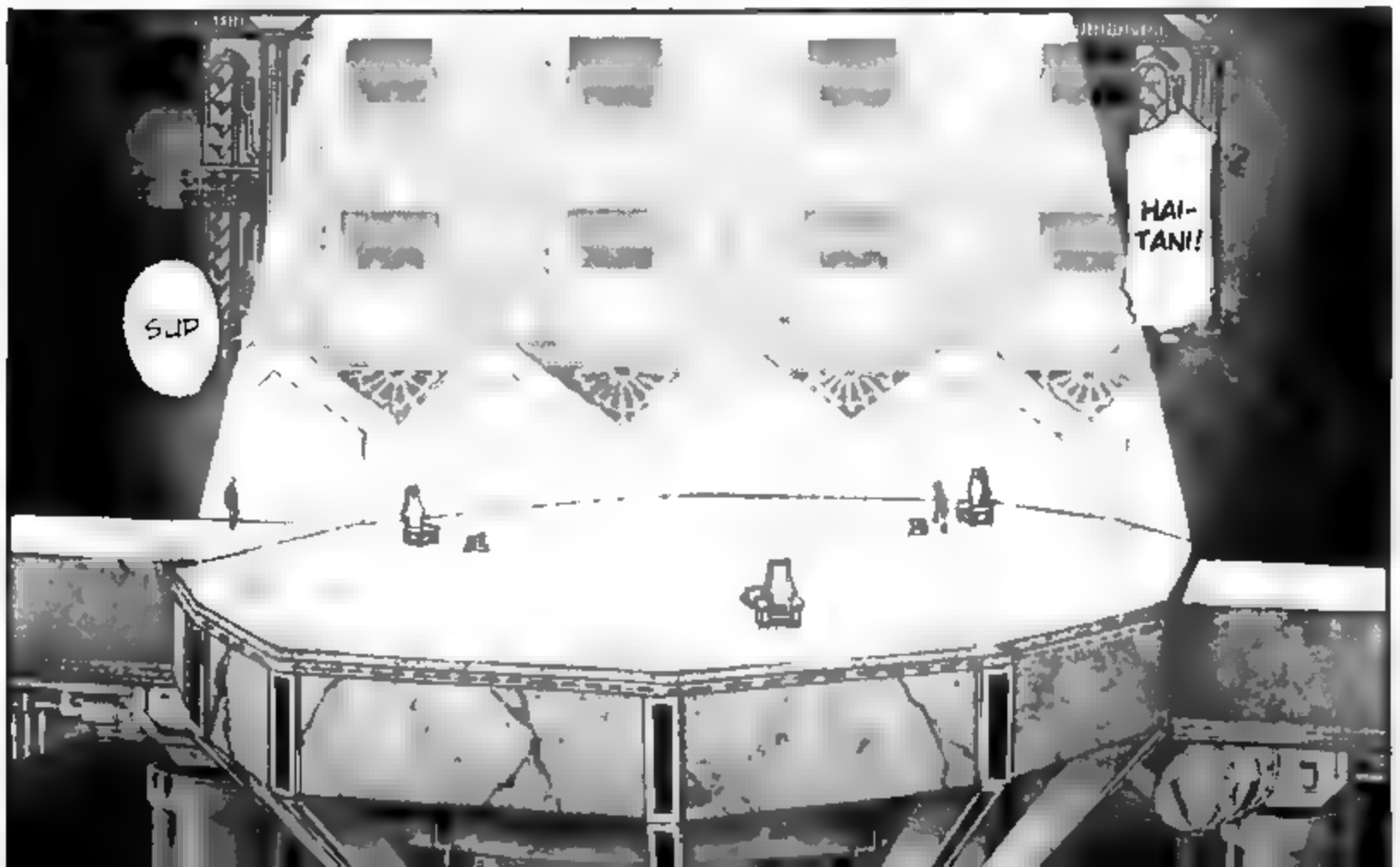
SFX: GACHA

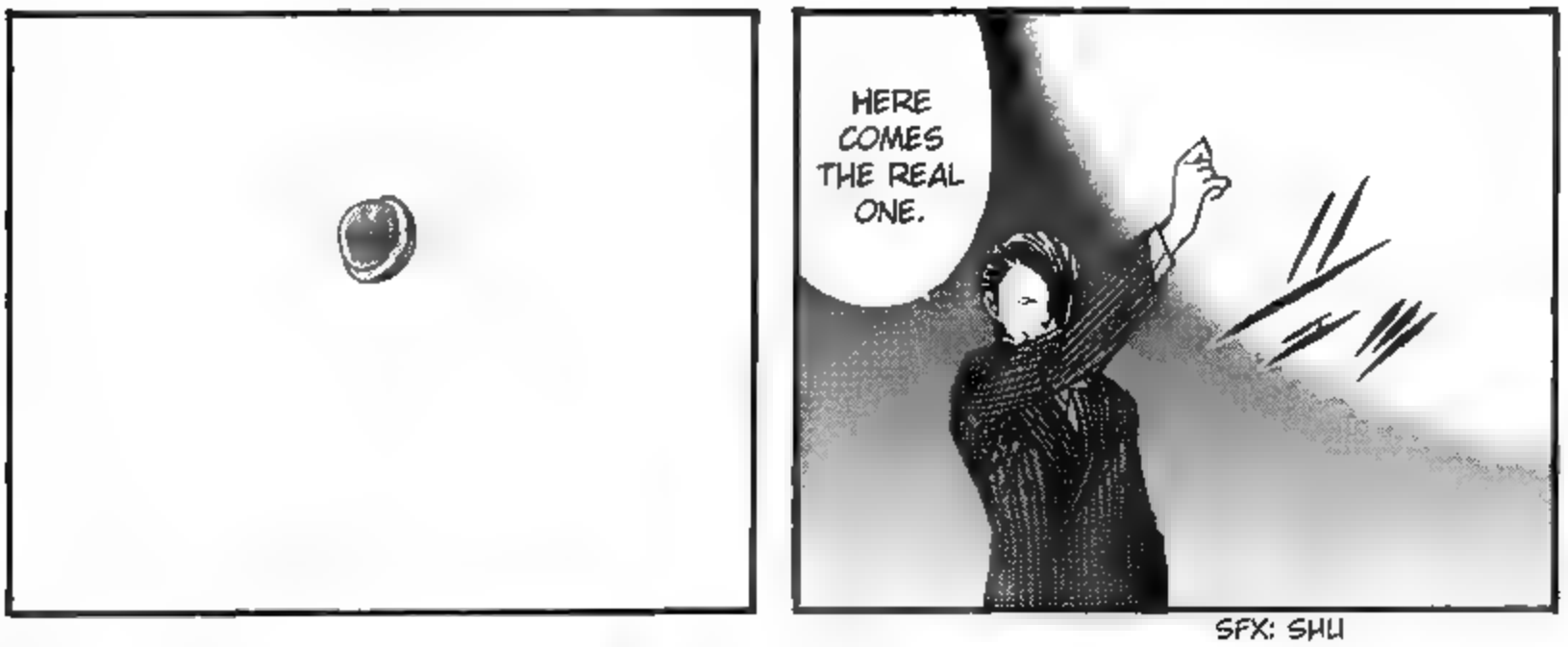
SFX. GATA GATA GATA GATA

IT'S AL-RIGHT NOW

SFX: BAH

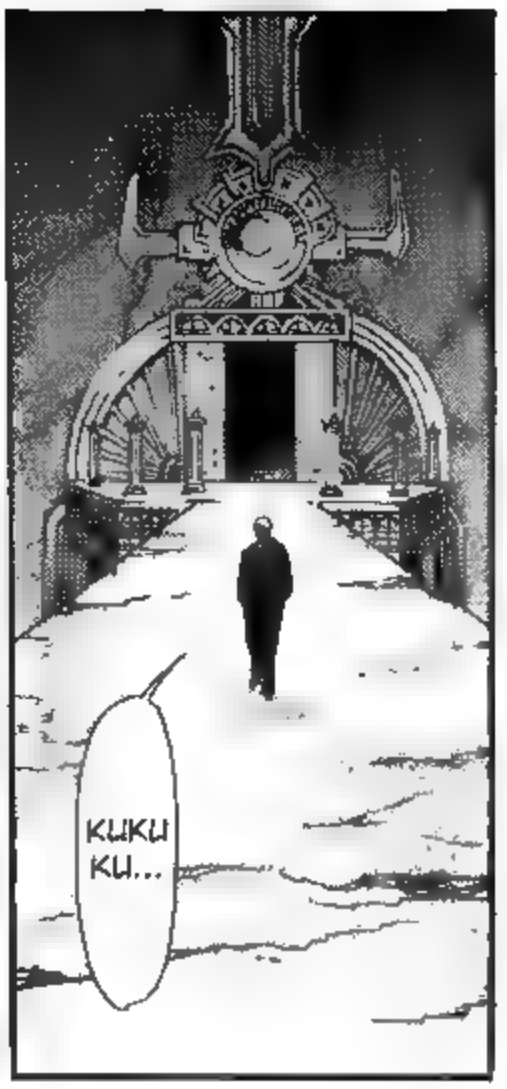
IT'S AL-RIGHT NOW ...


SUP
HAI-TANI!


HERE COMES THE REAL ONE.
SFX: SHU

SFX: PAN

THAT IRREVERENT ATTITUDE...
ANY DAY NOW, HAITANI...


KUKU KU...

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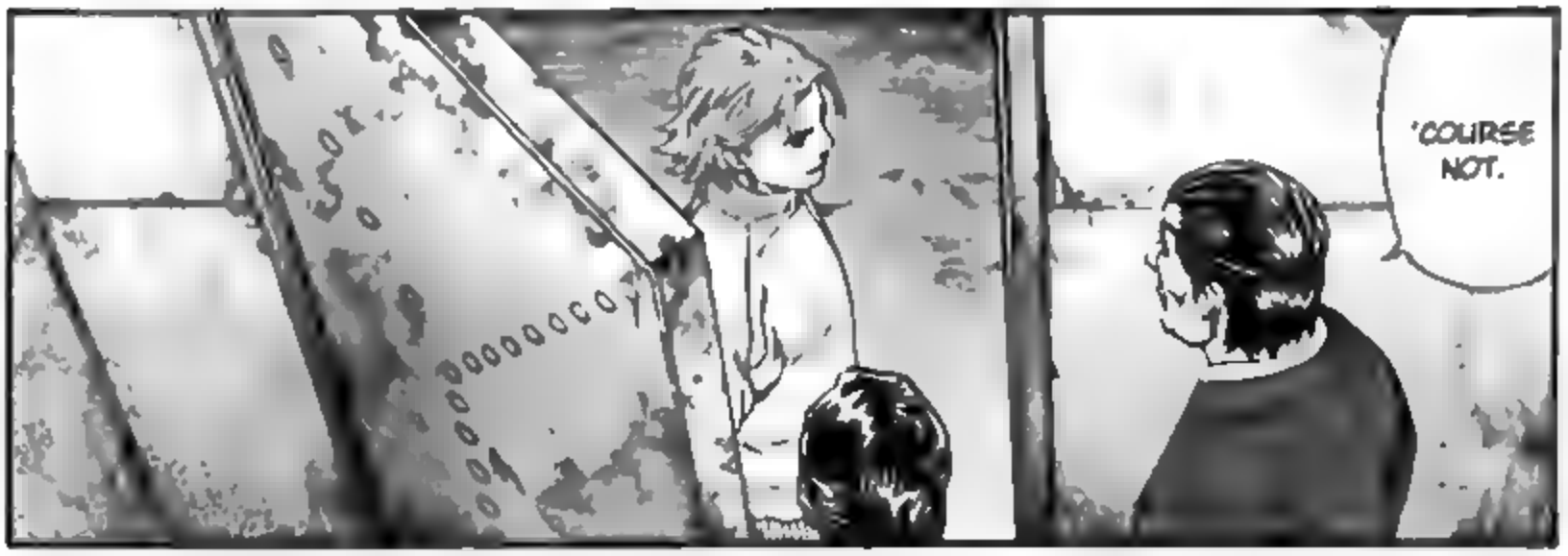
SFX: GACHA

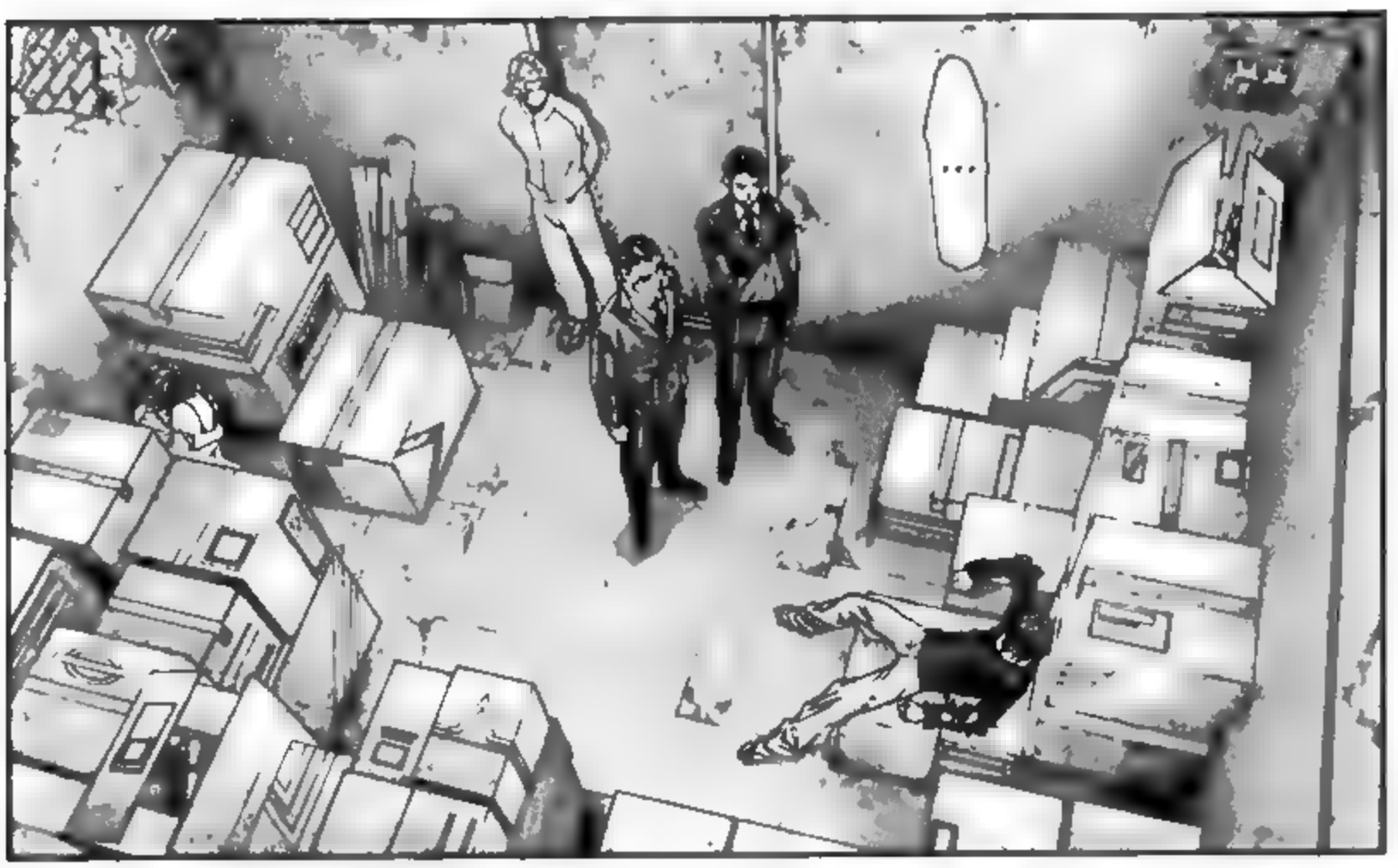
YOU WEREN'T SEEN?


'COURSE NOT.

JIN!

…

Chapter 143
(VANISHED CONFIDENCE)



NO, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AND WHERE WE STAND.

EH?

I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU STEP OUTSIDE?

WHAT WAS JIN DOING? WHY WAS KONOHA TARGETED? WHY WAS THE AMAGI MANSION BOMBED?

WHERE YOU STAND IS ABOUT TO BE SHOT.

!

NO SECRETS LEFT, ARE THERE?

WHO CARES ANYWAY, HE HEARD FROM THE CHAIRMAN ABOUT US AND EVOL.

OY.

ENDING UP IN AMAGI TOWER WAS ALREADY A BIG ENOUGH PROBLEM. I WON'T ALLOW THINGS TO SLIP ANY FURTHER.

SINCE THE START, WE'VE WORKED TO KEEP OUR ACTIVITIES KNOWN TO AS FEW AS POSSIBLE.

EVEN SO,

I'VE RECEIVED NO IN-STRUCTIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THIS MATTER.

I'M UNABLE TO TRUST ANYONE.

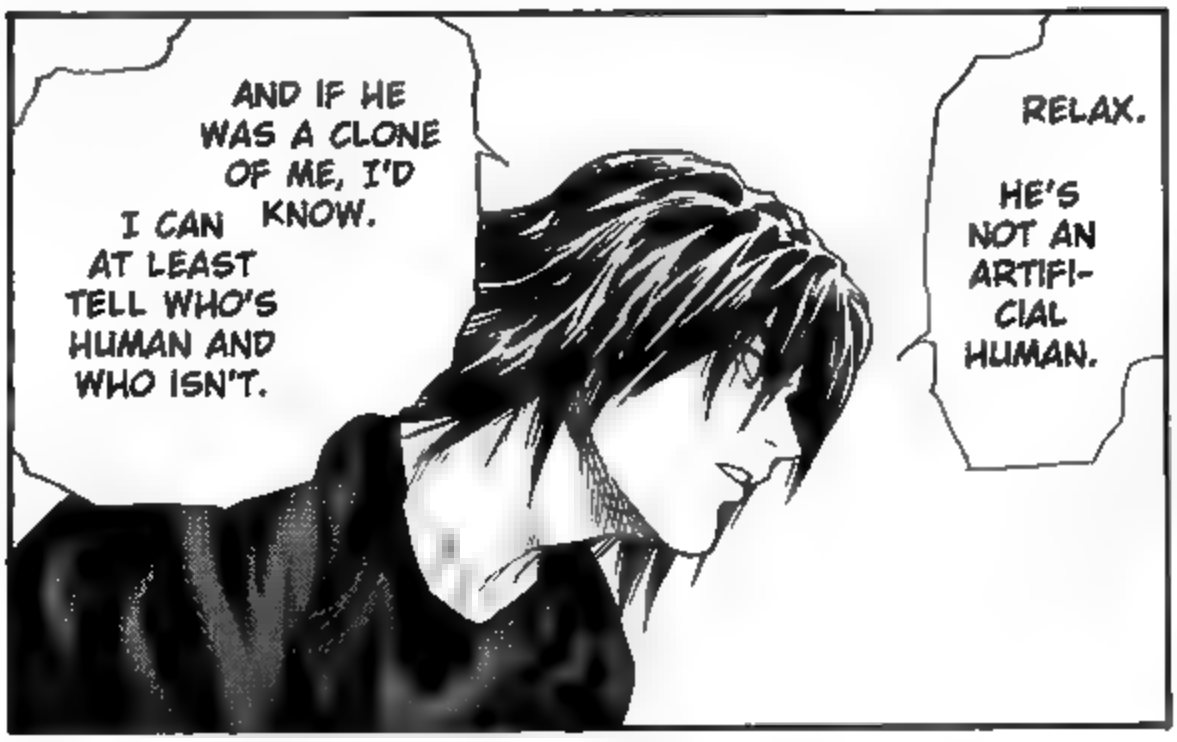
WITH ALL THE UNBE-LIEVABLE THINGS THAT'VE BEEN HAPPEN-ING,

ADD TO THAT... WE HAVE NO PROOF THAT HE'S REAL.

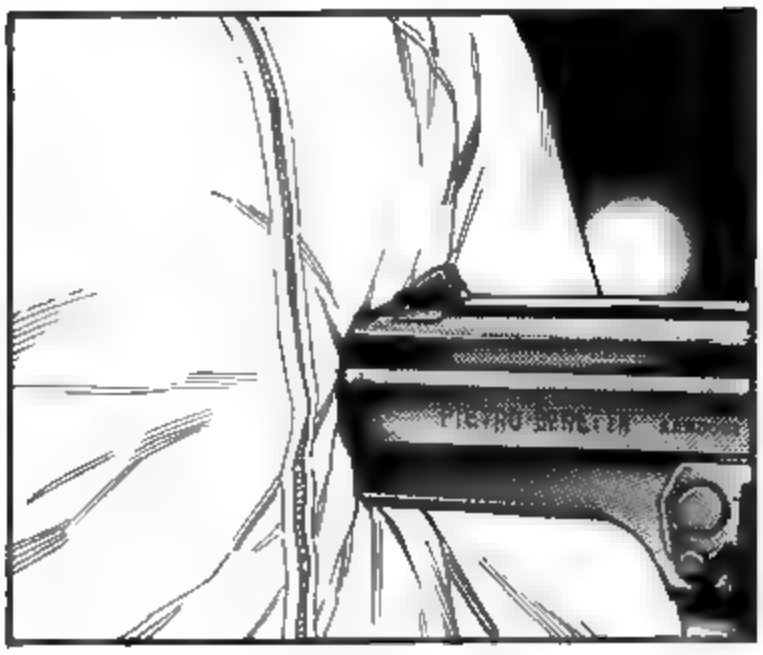
YOU TOO, HUH.

YOU GOT SOME INSIGHT INTO EVOL'S PLANS OR SOMETHING?

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S ALL BUSINESS AS USUAL.


AND IF HE WAS A CLONE OF ME, I'D KNOW.
I CAN AT LEAST TELL WHO'S HUMAN AND WHO ISN'T.
RELAX.
HE'S NOT AN ARTIFI-CIAL HUMAN.

...



ALRIGHT ... THAT'S GOOD NEWS.

I'LL COUNT TO THREE.
LEAVE WITHIN THAT TIME.

JEEZ... YOU'RE STUB-BORN.

ガチャ

...

SFX. GACHA

SFX: BATAN

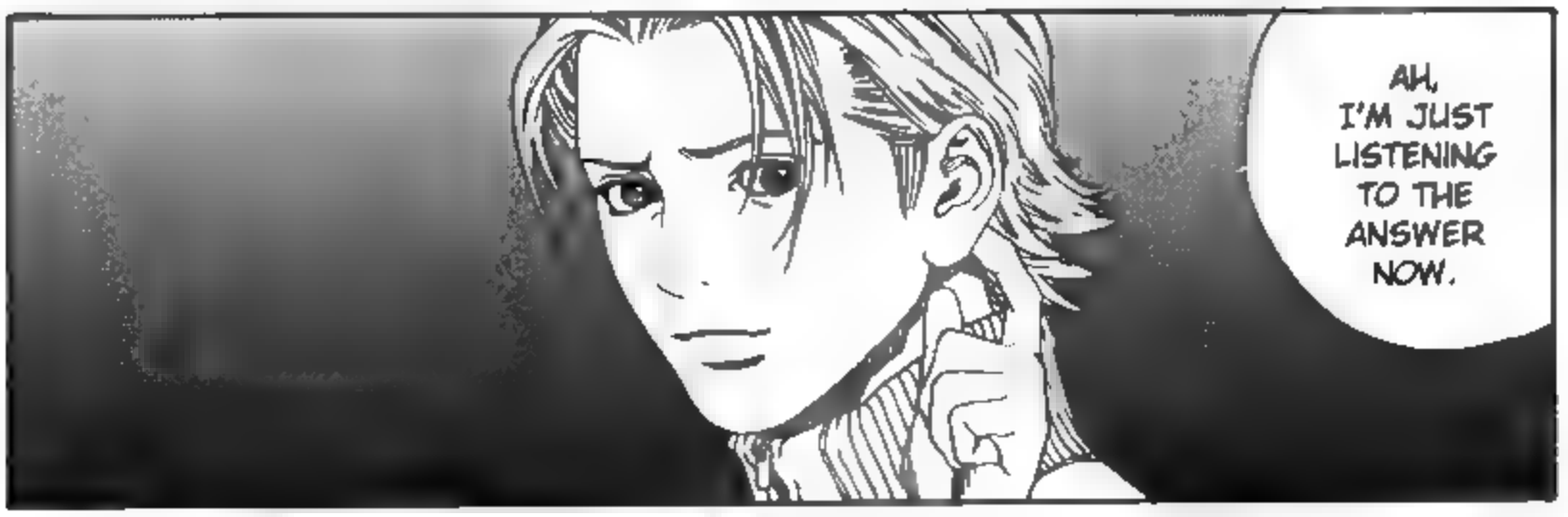
ガチャ

I DIDN'T WANT TO ACT LIKE THAT, BUT...

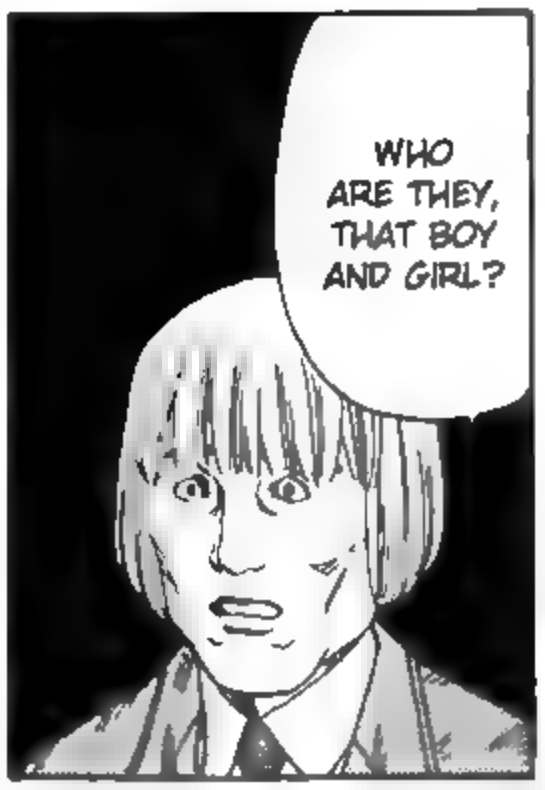
SFX: GACHA

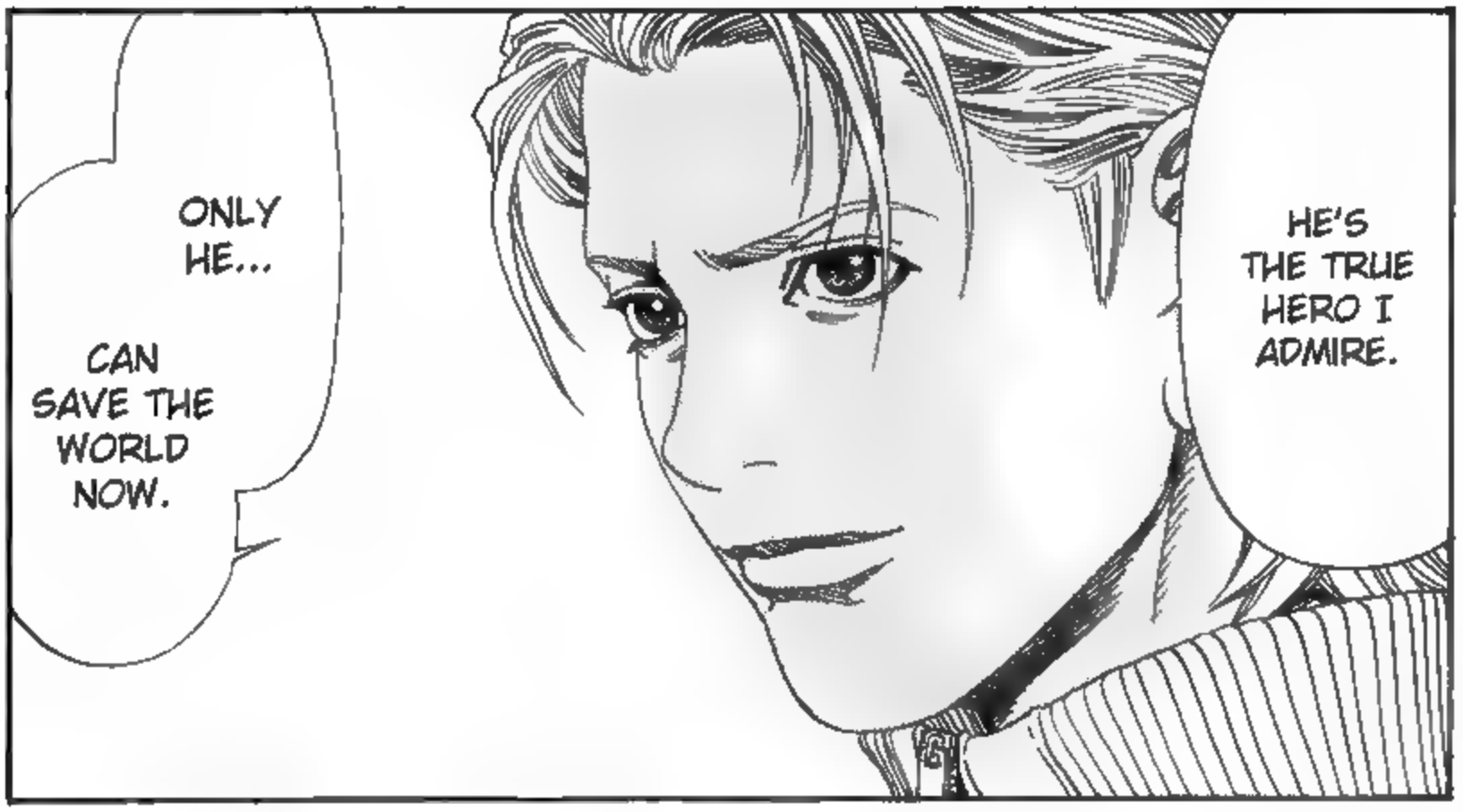
WHY AM I HERE?
WHAT... HAPPENED TO ME?

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
BRO-THER.

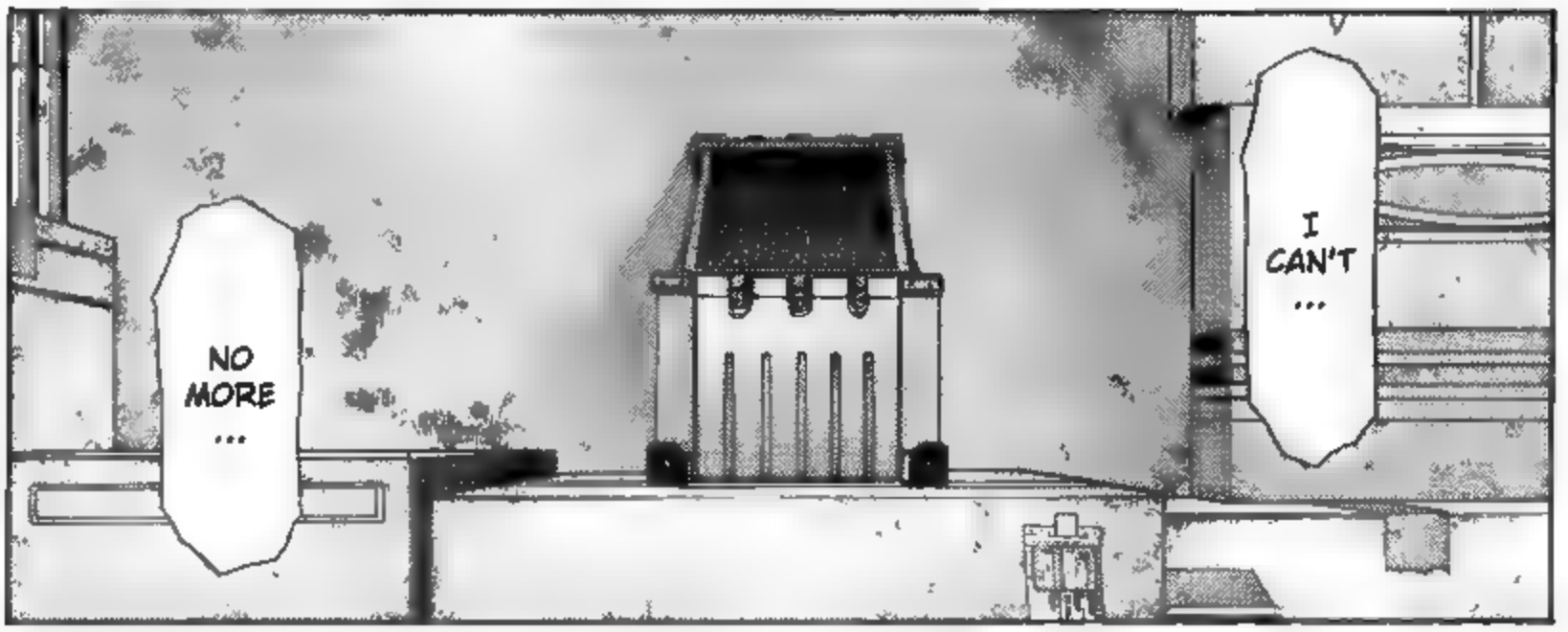

AH, I'M JUST LISTENING TO THE ANSWER NOW.

I DON'T KNOW THE GIRL, BUT THE GUY...


WHO ARE THEY, THAT BOY AND GIRL?

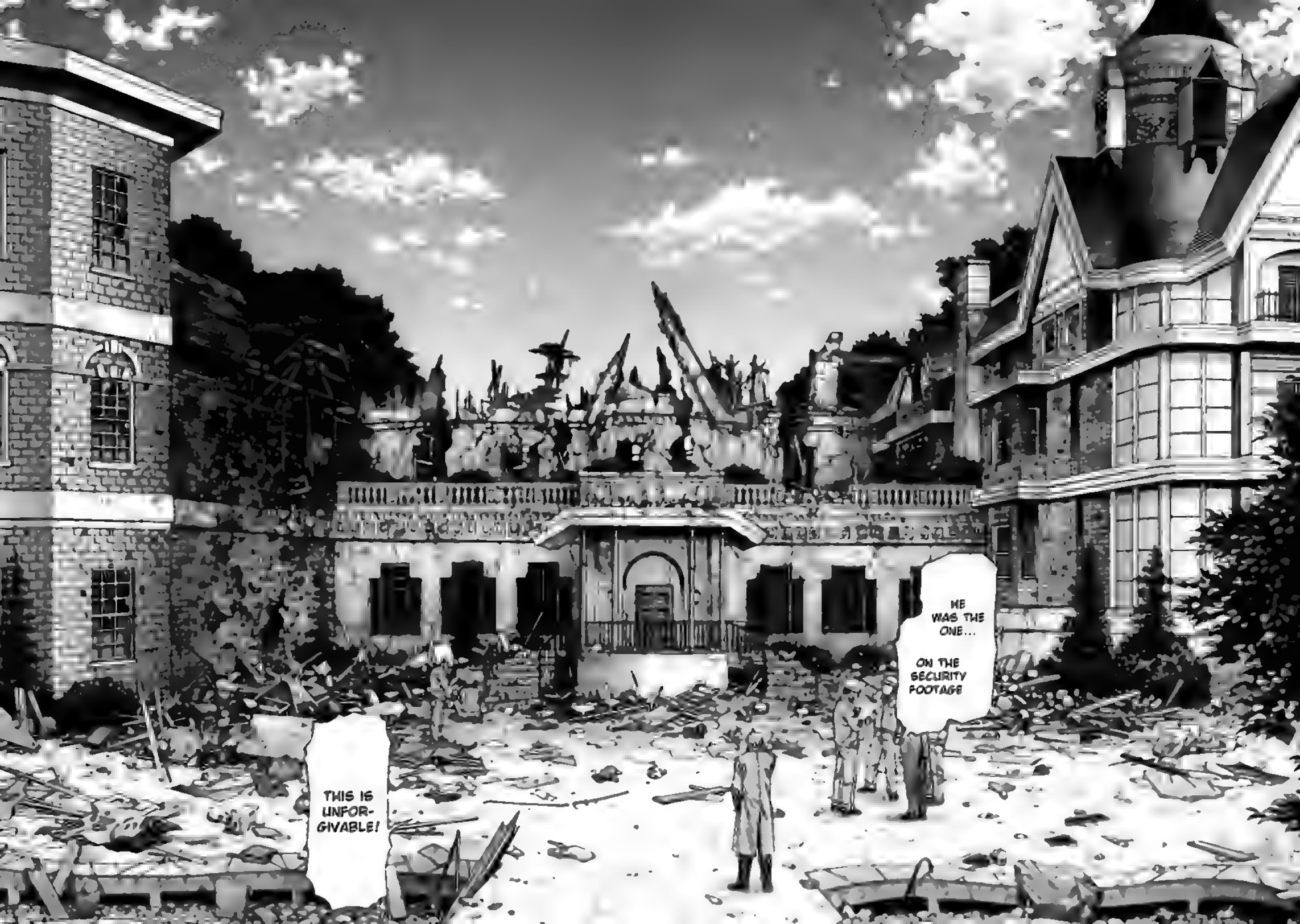

ONLY HE...
CAN SAVE THE WORLD NOW.
HE'S THE TRUE HERO I ADMIRE.

ON ZET AL-READY.
JUST ... GIVE UP...


NO MORE ...
I CAN'T ...

YES.

THERE'S NO MIS-TAKE.
I'VE CONFIRMED THE IMAGE THAT WE RECEIVED.


THIS IS UNFOR-GIVABLE!
HE WAS THE ONE...
ON THE SECURITY FOOTAGE

MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED.

LISTEN, THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT HE'S NOT HUMAN.

... NO.

NOT JUST HIM, BUT WHOEVER HE IS WITH. NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE!

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! YOU MUST CATCH HIM!

THEN THAT PREVIOUS MATTER .

ON THE OTHER HAND ...

IF IT GOES WELL,

... THANK YOU SIR.

YES SIR.

YES.

ZETMAN

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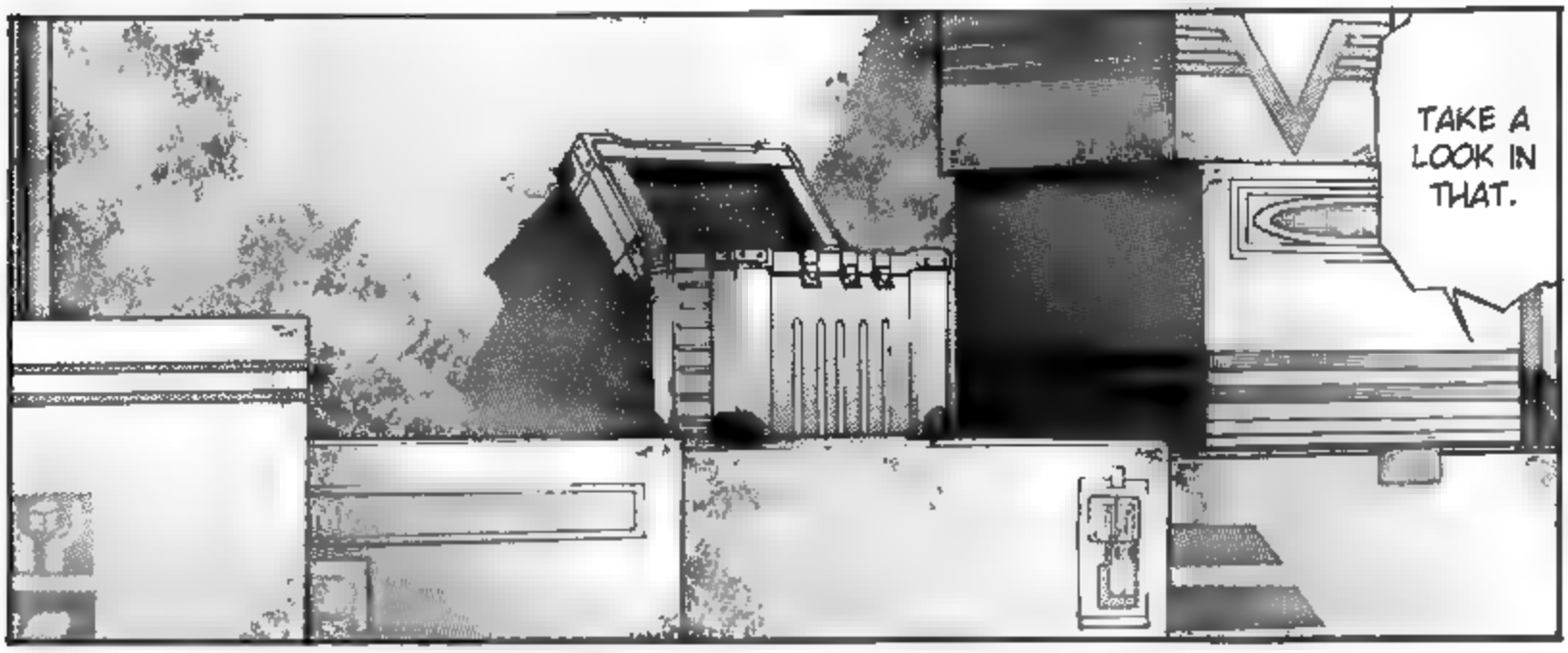
Chapter 144
(SUSPECT)

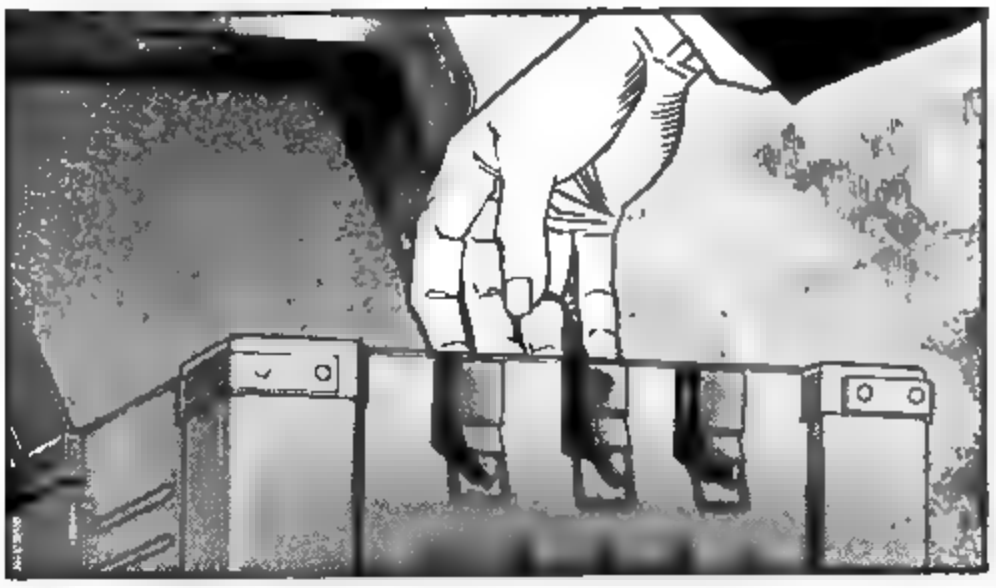
HMPH
...
THERE'S NO CHANGES MENTALLY.
EVEN IF YOU FORCED ME INTO ZET, I'M STILL MYSELF.
...

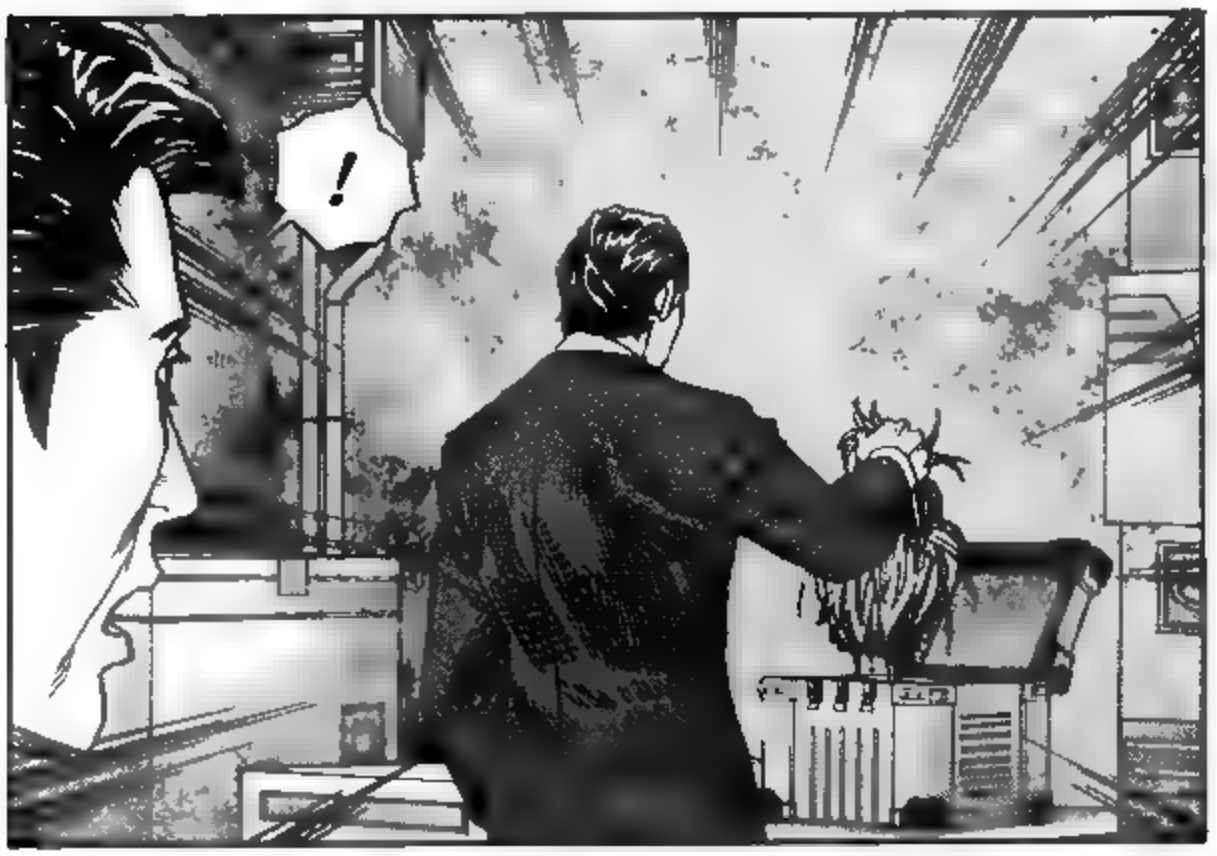

TAKE A LOOK IN THAT.

?

...

!?





SFX: GOTO

THIS
...

IT'S FROM A MANNE-QUIN.

YEP.
I THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY HER KID'S HEAD AND PANICKED.

FAIL OR WHAT?
SEE?

HMPH.

SFX: DOSU

... YOU NEED TO TOUGHEN UP.

HOW ABOUT YOU START EXPLAINING WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

WELL?

I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT BEING TRICKED BY THE ENEMY.

SHE PICKED UP YOUR PENDANT AFTER YOU DROPPED IT.

AND THEN...

DIDN'T KONOHA AMAGI HAVE THE RED STONE?

?

I WAS OUT-MANEUVERED AND THE STONE WAS TAKEN.

SO...

IT SEEMS YOU DON'T REMEMBER, BUT YOU SAW HER JUST BEFORE YOU PASSED OUT.

YES... THERE WAS A LINGERING IMAGE OF IT IN YOUR BRAIN.

OH, REALLY?

JUST A COINCI-DENCE.

NOT LIKE IT WAS DONE DELIBER-ATELY.

WHEN WAS IT SWITCHED?

WAS THE STONE IN THE PENDANT A FAKE?

AND IF THEY KNEW IT WAS FAKE THEN WHY ATTACK THE MANSION?

WHICH MEANS THEY KNEW KONOHA'S ONE WAS FAKE? HOW?

THE ONES WHO STOLE THE STONE FROM YOU WERE EVOL, RIGHT?

HANG ON, I'M CON-FUSED.

HE'LL KNOW IF WE TRY TO HIDE IT.

HEY ... JIN DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR THAT RIGHT NOW ...

UN-FORTU-NATELY, KONOHA AMAGI WAS...

... THEY BLEW IT UP.

...

THEY ATTACK-ED?

I STILL HAVE TO TELL KONOHA THAT WE HAVE NO HOME TO GO BACK TO...

...

HMPH.

THE ONE WHO WENT AFTER JIN IS CAUTIOUS.

THE EVOL POWER STRUCTURE ISN'T SETTLED YET. THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE OF THEM IN THE DRIVING SEAT FOR THIS OPERATION.

NOW I'M EVEN MORE CONFUSED

WHY DID THEY HAVE TO BLOW THE PLACE UP? ...

THEY TOOK HER HOSTAGE FOR SOME LEVERAGE ...

KONOHA'S FINE. SHE'S NEXT DOOR.

...

LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING THEN...

...IF I HAVE TO...

I'M TO-TALLY LOST.

COULD YOU BREAK IT DOWN A BIT FOR ME JIN?

ER...

SHIT... THIS SUCKS.

YOU'RE SHITTING ME! WHO CAN RELAX THERE!?

WE SHOULD MOVE SOMEWHERE WE CAN RELAX. FOR NOW, LET'S USE THE HOTEL.

SFX: DOKI DOKI

WHY AM I IN MY PAJAMAS?

THIS MORNING... JIN CAME INTO MY ROOM... AND THAT'S THE LAST THING I REMEMBER.

WHY AM I WITH ALL THESE STRANGERS? AND WHO IS THAT GIRL?

WHERE ARE WE? DID JIN BRING ME HERE?

WHY WON'T ANYONE TELL ME ANYTHING...?

WHAT?
!
SFX GACHA

THE CAR'S GONE!

KUGA

HAYAMI... HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

THERE'S A GPS TRACKER IN YOUR PROSTHESIS.
OH... I DIDN'T TELL YOU.

SFX DADADADA
...

ESPECIALLY ...
APOLOGIES, BUT I'M TAKING THE LOT OF YOU INTO CUSTODY.

WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL CELL WAITING FOR YOU.
THE MAN BY THE DOOR, SUSPECTED OF BOMBING THE AMAGI MANSION.

To be continued

YOUNG JUMP COMICS
ZETMAN
12

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